Friday July 25 1997

Abu Dhabi D 8.50 · Albania US$ 2 · Andorra FF 10 · Austria AS 30 · Bahrain BD 0.85 · Belgium BF 65 · Bulgaria LV 580 · Canada C$ 3.95 · Croatia KN 12.50 · Cyprus C£ 1.00 · Czech Republic KC56 · Denmark DK 15 · Dubai D 8.50 · Egypt E£ 6.50 · Estonia K 30 · Finland FM 12 · France FF 10 · Germany DM 3.50 · Greece D 450 · Hong Kong HK$ 25 · Hungary F 230 · Iceland IK 185 · Israel NIS 11.50 · Italy L 3,000 · Jordan JD 1.25 · Kenya KSH 150 · Kuwait KD 0.50 · Latvia US$ 2 · Lebanon LL 3000 · Luxembourg LF 65 · Madeira E 270 · Malta ML 0.43 · Morocco D 25 · Netherlands G 4.00 · Norway NK 16 · Oman OR 1.00 · Pakistan R 60 · Poland Z 8.20 · Portugal E 240 · Qatar QR 8.50 · Russia US$ 2.75 · Saudi Arabia R 10 · Slovakia SK 60 · Slovenia SLT 290 · Spain P 250 · Sweden SK 17 · Switzerland SF 3.20 · Thailand B 80 · Turkey TL 120,000 · Ukraine US$ 3.50 · USA US$ 2.75

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

48,925

www.ashes.co.uk — Ashes 97 The Guardian WISDEN

The unique sports magazine
Sport97
Water torture: Mike Selvey and Matthew Engel at Headingley

What ever happened to...
Funding for our top atheletes
With European weather

Decca Aitkenhead
The only safe childhood: a virtual childhood?
This section page 13

Versace killer takes answers to the grave

Cunanan suicide ends manhunt

Ed Vulliamy in Washington, Ian Traynor in Bonn and John Hooper in Rome

"THE reign of terror that was brought upon us by Andrew Cunanan is over," announced the Miami Beach police chief, Richard Barreto, yesterday morning, closing one of America's biggest ever manhunts. Police marksmen had stormed a houseboat and found the body of Gianni Versace's murderer. Cunanan had shot himself in the head, police said.

One FBI officer described Mr Barreto's statement as "the highest-ranking sigh of relief I've heard for a while".

The corpse of America's most wanted man was found by Swat agents through a dense haze of tear gas and concussion-grenade fumes.

The discovery of the body followed a five-hour siege after a shot was fired from within the houseboat at a caretaker who went to investigate after spotting a stranger.

The man reported the incident to the police. Within minutes, hundreds of officers and Swat marksmen had swooped into and cleared the area, and trained the sights of scores of high-velocity rifles on the houseboat.

A telephone was thrown in, but no contact made.

No shots were fired by police, only the salvo of concussion grenades and tear gas to make way for six agents to burst into the houseboat.

Police said it had taken some time for the masked agents to find and identify the body, because of the fumes inside the building. Electric fans were brought in to dispel them.

A pistol found beside Cunanan's lifeless hand was almost certainly the same .40 calibre handgun that killed Versace, and two of Cunanan's other victims. Police said there was no suicide note.

The gunshot to the head made identification difficult, police sources said, but confirmation came after a thumbprint was matched with police files.

Next comes the autopsy, and the pursuit of unanswered questions about the motives behind Cunanan's killing spree. Principal among these will be tests for Aids; one theory is that Cunanan had contracted the disease and was, initially at least, wreaking revenge on those who might have infected him. There will also be an examination of his brain if, as one Miami coroner said yesterday, "it hasn't been all blown apart by the gunshot".

The manhunt ended three miles from where it had begun on the steps of Gianni Versace's palazzo, where the designer was murdered on the morning of July 15.

Mr Barreto said yesterday he was not surprised that his quarry had moved only a short distance from the crime scene. "He made it 40 blocks from the original scene. There was terrific pressure on him from law enforcement, media exposure and public vigilance. I think he was a desperate person; it was very difficult for him to move about."

One criminologist specialising in serial killers, Dr Casey Jordan of Connecticut University, said: "He wanted attention, but he cannot have foreseen how much attention

turn to page 3, column 1

A police helicopter circles the houseboat where Cunanan died

Alarm at DPP death cases

**Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent**

THE Crown Prosecution Service was last night accused of being a shambles after it admitted for the second time in two days that a decision not to prosecute police officers over a death in custody was flawed. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, was under pressure to initiate an inquiry into the way such cases are investigated.

Dame Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, agreed to reconsider a decision not to prosecute over the death of Richard O'Brien, an Irish-born father of seven after a High Court challenge was brought by his widow, Alison.

On Wednesday, Dame Barbara threw in her hand on a similar challenge brought by Olamid Jones, widow of Shiji Lapite, a Nigerian asylum-seeker who died after being placed in a neck-hold 30 minutes after he was stopped by police for "acting suspiciously." Inquest juries had recorded verdicts of unlawful killing in both instances.

The cases reveal that, despite the highly charged and controversial nature of such cases, decisions are taken at a lower level and evidence is not considered by the DPP.

Fiona Murphy, solicitor to Mrs O'Brien, said: "This is the second case in two days where the DPP has admitted in court that the decision-making process in her office is a shambles. These circumstances cry out for a full review of and inquiry into the role of the DPP."

The call was echoed by Inquest, which monitors deaths in police custody. Its director, Deborah Coles, said: "We are appalled by what this case has revealed about the attitude of the CPS in the way it deals with police violence."

Yesterday's case collapsed after Patrick O'Connor, QC for the O'Brien family, alerted Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Jowitt to discrepancies in an affidavit from Richard Munday, the principal crown prosecutor who takes prosecution decisions in police cases, and memos to superiors about the case, explaining why the decision was taken.

Mr Munday cites considerations in a memo — for example his theory that injuries to Mr O'Brien were inflicted by his son accidentally kicking him in the police van, contrary to the pathologist's evidence that these were probably caused by his head being banged on the ground — which are absent from the affidavit submitted to the court under oath explaining the reasons for not instigating a prosecution.

Mrs Mills threw in her hand amid confusion over whether she had been personally involved in the decision. A memo from Mr Munday to Dame Barbara about the case, disclosed after the hearing had started, was marked "for your decision."

The court had earlier received a letter from a senior CPS manager, Dru Sharpling, stating that Dame Barbara had taken no part in the decision.

Lord Justice Rose expressed concern about the different reasons given by Mr Munday for not going ahead with a prosecution in his affidavit and the memo. The judge also said he was concerned about the confusion over who had taken the decision.

A CPS spokeswoman said Dame Barbara did not see the evidence but only a summary briefing note. "It is for the reviewing lawyer to take the decision. Senior managers, including the director, would be consulted. In this case the director did not see any evidential material."

A third case, involving Derek Treadway, who was "suffocated to unconsciousness" by members of West Midlands serious crimes squad but survived, goes ahead today.

Showing the flag . . . Shop assistant Cathie Stepien hoists the cross of St Andrew in the window of the Scottish shop in Edinburgh's Royal Mile yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MITCHELL

Labour hails great Scottish adventure

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Labour government yesterday embarked on its biggest venture yet when it published a constitutional package aimed at returning to Scotland in three years the parliament it lost almost 300 years ago.

Describing it as "a new parliament for the new millennium", the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, published a white paper that will create a powerful 129-member tax-raising and legislative parliament in Edinburgh in January 2000.

The white paper could cause the biggest constitutional upheaval in Britain since Irish independence in 1920, with opportunities for a rethink of the political structure in England too.

The scale of the task being undertaken in disentangling the two countries is underlined in the white paper's detail. Issues from abortion to film classification will be divided between Westminster and Edinburgh.

The paper will establish a parliament with much more power than the one proposed by Labour in the 1970s. It will be responsible for health, education, local government, economic development, law and home affairs, and a host of other departments. Westminster will retain reponsibility for foreign policy, defence, security and other key areas. A complex mechanism will adjudicate in disputes between Westminster and the Scottish parliament.

The new parliament will be elected by a form of proportional representation, with 73 of the 129 MSPs (Members of a Scottish Parliament) elected from constituencies and the remainder from a list system. It will be a fixed-term parliament.

The 72 Scottish MPs at Westminster may be reduced by up to a dozen.

Eight British prime ministers this century have promised to deliver devolution for Scotland and Mr Blair, the ninth, is on course finally to deliver if the Scots vote for it, as is likely, in a referendum on September 11. Mr Dewar, who has campaigned for devolution since 1960, said: "Over the years I have seen many devolution proposals come and go. I believe this one will come and stay."

But Michael Ancram, constitutional spokesman for the Conservatives, who have no seats in Scotland, described the white paper as a sombre day for Scotland. The proposal was "dangerous, damaging and dishonest" and would fan the flames of nationalism.

The white paper shows that Mr Dewar emerged almost victorious from his cabinet clashes with sceptical ministers, apart from being forced to concede an end to the historic principle that guarantees Scottish over-representation at Westminster.

The personality clashes in cabinet committee were brutal, and pro-unionist ministers will almost certainly challenge Scotland's privileged position in having a bloc grant that provides more per head of population than for England. Unlike the Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies, who faced hostility from some Labour backbenchers over his plans for an assembly, Mr Dewar had almost unanimous backing from the Labour and Liberal Democrat side in the Commons yesterday, with even Labour's arch anti-devolutionist Tam Dalyell muted.

The Scottish National Party's national council is to meet on August 2 to decide whether to campaign for the devolution plan, which falls a long way short of independence. But it is a near certainty that they will opt to back the Yes campaign.

Conservative MPs complained that ministers from the Scottish parliament will be able to negotiate direct with the European Union, at times on behalf of the UK, but they would not be able to question them.

There was also concern among Conservative MPs over the Scottish parliament's power to raise up to £450 million either through income tax or some other form of taxation.

White paper details, page 7; Leader comment, page 12

Inside

Britain — A British woman aged 33 who ran off to Florida with a 14-year-old boy has been charged in the US with sexually assaulting a child. 6

World News — More Hizbollah attacks inside the Israeli "security zone" in south Lebanon are expected after a Knesset vote infuriated Syria. 10

Finance — The Artist Formerly Known As Prince is to sell all his work over the internet without the support of a record company or distributor. 16

Crossword 16

Comment and Letters 12
Obituaries 14
Sport97
Quick Crossword 15;
Radio, TV and Weather 16

30
9 770261 307354

Sketch

Moaning in the gloaming

Simon Hoggart

DONALD DEWAR launched his white paper on Scottish devolution yesterday. Mr Dewar was a wise choice for this difficult job: he is that tremendous rarity, a Scottish politician who is generally liked by other Scottish politicians.

This was particularly lucky since only Scottish politicians got much of a look-in yesterday. It was 34 minutes after the question session began that the first English person was able to offer his opinion, and another 20 minutes before the first English Labour MP was called.

On and on, the roll call of the clans continued: Wallace, Maclean, Dalyell, Fyfe, Ross, Canavan, Galloway and Campbell. There may be no Tory MPs representing Scotland, but they still have a few Scots, and most of them were summoned.

This was Scotland calling to Scotland, from glen to glen, across the rolling lowlands, to distant purple islands, from the disused shipyards of the Clyde to the cobbled alleyways of Edinburgh lined with twee little shops selling whisky-flavoured marmalade and shortbread in tartan tins.

Clearly, the views of the English counted very little. After all, we are only the sods who will end up paying for this experiment.

Michael Ancram, a Caledonian toff who sits for Devizes, and presently the Tories' constitutional spokesman, said that it was "a sombre day for Scotland", and when Labour MPs jeered back, made the mistake of declaring: "Oh yes, it is!" which brought back the inevitable pantomime reply.

Mr Ancram took a literary turn. "We will be asking the people of Scotland to look carefully into the dark-filled night this statement opens before them."

Tories were outraged at two things: first the notion that a Scottish minister — not answerable to the Westminster parliament — might represent the UK in Europe. But they were even crosser about the West Lothian question.

The West Lothian Question is not, as you might think, "Where on earth is West Lothian?" but "Why should the MP for West Lothian be allowed to vote on matters affecting West Bromwich, and not the other way round?"

The Government's reply to this conundrum is succinct, convincing and intellectually watertight. It can be summarised as: "So what?"

This was not enough for Richard Shepherd, one of the tiny handful of English MPs who was called. Shaking, even croaking, with emotion he said that the new arrangement meant that our votes were no longer equal — they depended on where you lived. "The majority will be outraged at the thought 'My vote is less.' "

Actually, I doubt that the majority will even notice. This is a very private affair.

Another English Tory who complained about something was told by Mr Dewar that "perhaps you should take a closer look at what is going on in Scotland. I don't mean it rudely, but you are not steeped in it, in the way that I am."

This translates as: "We know what we want, we intend to get it, and you can mind your own business."

And so they will. Mr Dewar turned the West Lothian Question on its head by calling it the Devizes Question, after Mr Ancram's seat. "It is rather odd to ask why a party which cannot even get a single seat in Scotland should pontificate on what is clearly a desire for change."

This is Mr Dewar's brand of diffident triumphalism (one Scots paper recently compared him to Robert the Bruce — "I wanted to take to my bed for the day"). The referendum poses two questions, and the Government's policy is to call for two yesses.

Labour Scots kept standing up and joyfully shouting: "Yes! Yes!" They sounded as if they were reaching the climax of carnal congress, quite unlike the congress now planned for Scotland.

But on and on these Scots continued. Bruce, Begg, Graham, Michie . . .

Home Secretary promises to get own house in order with more blacks and Asians in top Whitehall jobs

Straw sets up race inquiry

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE Home Secretary, Jack Straw, last night promised that the Government would "get its house in order" over racial equality with more blacks and Asians in the highest echelons of Whitehall.

Mr Straw, who has ordered an ethnic breakdown of Home Office staff, announced he is to set up a race relations forum "to give ethnic minorities a new and effective voice at the heart of government".

His speech, the first on race equality since the general election, follows hard on the heels of criticism earlier this week from Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, about the lack of government action to tackle the near invisible role of blacks and Asians in the highest levels of political, economic and social life in Britain.

In a speech to the Black Jewish Forum at the Commons, Mr Straw renewed his election manifesto commitments to introduce specific new crimes of racial violence and racial harassment which would add up to two years on the sentences of thugs who carry out racist attacks.

The Home Secretary also confirmed that he is to announce a new official inquiry next week into the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence, who was stabbed to death in what the coroner said was an unprovoked racist attack.

Last night Sir Herman said Mr Straw's announcements "take us forward considerably" but said he still awaited "vital statements of intent on the reform of the Race Relations Act and action at the heart of Whitehall's machinery to secure employment in high places for ethnic minorities".

He said the Home Secretary's proposals were strong on consultation and participation but weak on ethnic minority involvement in policy reviews and in decision-making positions.

"We look forward to hearing more about issues such as regeneration and on the Government leading a public awareness programme to combat racism in Britain beyond the European Year Against Racism."

Mr Straw insisted that good race relations were at the heart of Tony Blair's vision of a "One-Nation" society.

He said more and more people in Britain realised that racial diversity was not a weakness but a national strength. The Home Secretary said that stamping out racial injustice required the Government to to "deal honestly with problems closer to home. The Government is determined to get its own house in order.

"All departments are issuing equal opportunities guidance to ensure that their policies are based on equality and fair treatment. The Home Office's revised guidance, about which the CRE was consulted, will be issued shortly. In addition I have asked for the position of ethnic minority staff in the Home Office to be examined."

Home Office figures show that there are only 18 black and Asian staff in its middle and upper ranks.

Mr Straw promised that the new race relations forum to advise him would "not just be a token talking shop" and said he intended to ensure that the Government had a comprehensive and fully thought out strategy for improving race relations and dealing with discrimination.

It is expected that at least one black or Asian MP will be on the race relations forum.

"We have plenty of ideas, but we do not pretend to have all the answers. I want to hear first hand both the concerns of the ethnic minority communities and their ideas for change," Mr Straw said.

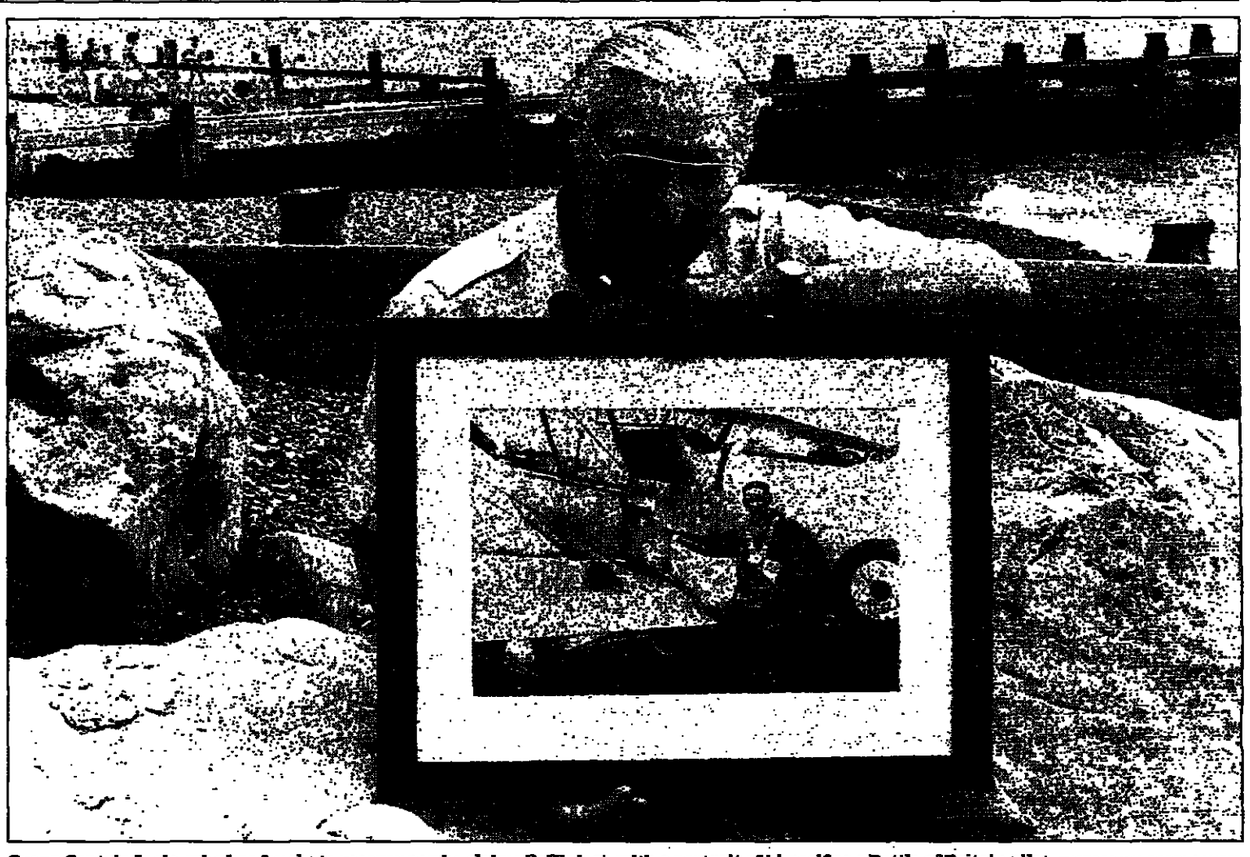
The Stephen Lawrence Family Campaign warmly welcomed the confirmation that an inquiry is to be announced into the teenager's murder. The Home Secretary said that there had been no conviction in the case was a double source of continuing pain for the family.

Simon de Baya, a campaign spokesman, said: "It vindicates the family's view that the police and prosecuting authorities completely mishandled this case."

The inquiry may have to be delayed as a second private prosecution is still under consideration.

'This is a complete travesty of the truth. As far as we are concerned £20 million is at stake. We have been through all the records. Our case for demanding that the money we are owed is returned to us is watertight'

Group Captain Alec Ingle, DFC



Group Captain Ingle, who has fought to recover pay he claims PoWs lost, with a portrait of himself as a Battle of Britain pilot PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

Old PoWs irate over rejection of 'lost pay' claim

Richard Norton-Taylor

AN 81-year-old former Battle of Britain pilot yesterday said he was appalled at the Government's rejection of his long campaign to recover millions of pounds in lost pay on behalf of survivors of German prisoner-of-war camps.

Former Group Captain Alec Ingle, DFC, who was captured after baling out over northern France in 1943 and kept prisoner in Stalag Luft 3 in Silesia, claims thousands of officers and "protected personnel" — mainly medics and padres — lost money because of an agreement between the British government and the Germans.

In accordance with the two Geneva Conventions of 1929, officers were to receive camp pay from their captors to cover the cost of food, cigarettes and purchases from camp shops. This did not apply to other ranks.

Group Capt Ingle and other campaigners claimed the sums were wrongly deducted by the British government from their service salaries, which continued to be paid to PoWs throughout the war.

But their claims were dismissed yesterday by the Ministry of Defence. A report admitted the MoD no longer had the individual pay records from this period so it was not possible to check that every man had received exactly what was due to him.

But, the review added, "the weight of the evidence that survives shows there to have been a proper pay policy and a system for the adjustment of pay accounts.

Group Capt Ingle, who runs the Justice for Prisoners of War group, representing 8,500 officers who say they lost up to a third of their pay as PoWs, described the report as "cynical . . . a complete travesty of the truth".

He added: "As far as we are concerned £20 million is at stake. We have been through all the records. Our case for demanding that the money is watertight."

The film, The Wooden Horse, set in Stalag Luft 3 where Group Capt Ingle was a prisoner

Other camp survivors said yesterday that many of them were never paid by their captors at all, while others were handed out German marks calculated at a rate that was a fraction of the value calculated by Ministry of Defence officials.

Only a tiny proportion of any money given to PoWs was for personal use, Group Capt Ingle said. The rest went on essentials.

Charles Shelton, 79, of the National Ex-Prisoners of War Association, and a former corporal in Royal Army Medical Corps — one of 4,000 "protected personnel" captured — also attacked the Government's decision.

"It is not a question of compensation but our lost wages", he said. He was captured at Arnhem in 1944 with 280 wounded men in his care.

He discovered his entire pay was cut off when his wife was told that he was "missing, presumed dead". He was paid nothing when he was in prison camp.

"The Government should fulfill its commitments", he said referring to a Commons debate in January when John Reid, now minister for the armed forces, told MPs that "justice and of honour" was at stake.

The MoD's decision was announced yesterday in a written parliamentary answer by the junior defence minister, John Spellar. The MoD review, he said, "has found no basis in fact for the claim that the deductions were made from officers' service pay to repay the detaining power for their camp pay. Work carried out in prisoner of war camps by protected personnel was "clearly considered as comparable to their work in British service and that payment received for it was rightly offset by deductions from their British service pay".

MoD sources said the memory of former prisoners of war was "quite understandably impaired". They added: "Whether the policy was right is another matter".

Review

A funny thing didn't happen

Lyn Gardner

Channel 4 Sitcom Festival
Riverside Studios, London

THE fun of the annual Channel 4 Sitcom Festival is in trying to guess which of the playlets may eventually make it into television production. The agony is having to sit through some of the witless offerings. If the three scripts I saw performed really are those with the greatest potential, then the Americans need have no fear that their supremacy in the genre is under threat.

Perhaps I just always hit unlucky. Of the 18 sitcoms presented in previous festivals, six are apparently in development, with two in production. This alone may justify a festival which otherwise seems designed to save money on making pilots and to provide tired TV executives with a works outing. The uncharitable may suspect the intervals are longer than the plays less for technical reasons than because the punters are more likely to laugh when relaxed and well-lubricated.

Even so, there were times when a return to canned laughter would have been the humane course of action — particularly during School Daze, a playlet most notable for the extreme youth of its author, 18-year-old Susan Nickson, and a plot-line about three 17-year-old schoolgirls attempting to seduce their new teacher that has such unfortunate parallels with the Cottingham case that it seems almost indecent.

I'm prepared to believe that the average 17-year-old girl's ultimate ambition is to drink three bottles of Merrydown and get shagged in the bushes. But do headmasters really go around advising their staff which girls are on the pill and then to take advantage?

The mother in School Daze is a pathetic creature who spends her life in rubber gloves, armed with Mr Muscle. The same figure pops up in different guise in The Adventures of Mummy's Boy by Iain Heggie, whose A Wholly Healthy Glasgow was one of the funniest stage plays I've seen. What happened, Iain?

Here, the mother figure smothers her puny, unemployed, 34-year-old virgin son, Angus, with a love so suffocating that he fantasises about swapping the maternal bosom for something more in the Pamela Anderson line.

Heggie's script has the odd touch of surreal wit that may be better exploited on TV, but like all three sitcoms in the final week of the festival, what is most surprising is the sheer lack of surprise and a reluctance to acknowledge that laughter flows from character and not just situation.

The write-by-number approach to character is apparent in Gordon Steel's Cock and Bull, about a group of unemployed men down the job club. There is the fat boy, the hen-pecked fiancé, the timid accountant who is just out of the nick and the smoothie full of bright ideas for changing all their luck. These characters are only slightly less sketchy than those in the other two offerings, but there is at least the glimmerings of a chemistry between them.

So is tomorrow's successful sitcom among this bunch? I doubt it. But then some TV executive must have once thought that Two Point Four Children was funny.

Minister demands report on schoolgirl's expulsion

John Carvel
Education Editor

MINISTERS yesterday demanded an urgent investigation into a Nottinghamshire comprehensive after it expelled a 15-year-old girl in the middle of her GCSE course for bringing the school into disrepute by criticising the quality of teaching.

Sarah Briggs was excluded from Queen Elizabeth's School in Mansfield for writing to the local paper complaining about staff absenteeism and failure to address recommendations from the Office for Standards in Education, whose inspectors had found the educational standard unacceptable.

Three other pupils who also signed the letter withdrew their complaints after Nicola Atkin, the headteacher, ordered them to make a written apology. Sarah refused, insisting her comments were true.

Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, called for a full report on the case. "We do not believe that education is some secret world about which parents and pupils should not be allowed to comment. Ofsted reports should be made widely available and we . . . think that where appropriate parents and pupils should comment on these reports," he said.

Mr Byers would not discuss the details of the girl's expulsion before receiving a full report on the case, but Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools, said: "I do not think the pupil should have been punished.

"As a point of principle, our reports are written not just for teachers, but for parents and pupils. A good school will make sure the whole school community is involved in addressing issued raised in an Ofsted inspection."

Sarah was expelled before the end of term and the headteacher was on holiday yesterday, unavailable for comment. A governors' meeting to discuss the expulsion has been brought forward from September to mid-August.

John Carter, the chairman of governors, said the correct procedures had been followed. "The complaints made in the article didn't stack up. We did a full inquiry into this and wanted to talk to the parents and the pupil. We have not had that opportunity."

He defended the school's record on absenteeism, claiming that in the last academic year only four of the 42 teachers were away for periods of more than two weeks.

"If you allow people just willy-nilly to contact a newspaper about your organisation . . . it can have the possibility for bringing it into disrepute. And if you don't take any kind of action, you're asking for any kind of trouble with other pupils," he said.

Sarah, who wants to be a social worker with the elderly, said last night: "I was really upset on Wednesday because it felt as if I was on my own, but now I can see people backing me I have got more hope of going back to school . . . This is about my teaching and about my being able to say what I want."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, representing staff at the school, said they made no complaints about the girls who wrote the letter and had no hand in Sarah's expulsion.

JOAN OF ARC AT THE STAKE.
WELL DONE.
THE PROMS SUNDAY 7.30 PM. HONEGGER'S 'JOAN OF ARC' COMES TO LIFE. LIVE ON THREE. AS IS EVERY PROM. A RARE TREAT.
BBC RADIO 3

هكذا من الاصل

'He wanted attention, but he cannot have foreseen how much attention there would have been. He must have known there was no way out of this alive'

Armed police move in on the houseboat after a shot was fired at a caretaker. Above, how the FBI broke the news on the Internet PHOTOGRAPH: JON KRAL

Killer takes answers to grave

continued from page 1

there would have been. He must have known there was no way out of this alive."

There was no evidence yesterday to suggest that Cunanan had been at the houseboat since the murder. Police said they believed he had been "holed up in a very tight area", and said the owner of a boat moored nearby had told them of a stranger sleeping on his deck two nights after the Versace murder.

A number of secrets died with Cunanan — not least his motives and any connections he may have had with the world of organised crime, whose shadow has hung in the background of the case. Those who still subscribe to a "wider picture" theory were yesterday intrigued by the notion that what happened in the houseboat was murder, not suicide.

But the authorities were following more specific and immediate trails. Did Cunanan know the owner of the houseboat, Thorsten Reineck, the German manager of a gay health spa in Las Vegas? Mr Reineck, aged 49, is wanted by German police, who issued a European arrest warrant. The prosecutor's office in Leipzig said yesterday that Mr Reineck was being sought in connection with a £70,000 fraud. He is also being investigated for tax evasion.

Some reports yesterday said Mr Reineck had been spotted in Las Vegas, others that he was in Mexico. The houseboat was believed to have been vacant for months.

It was not clear whether the German authorities would seek to have Mr Reineck extradited.

There is no sign of Cunanan having had a key to the houseboat, but neither was there any indication of forced entry.

Despite Cunanan's death, the four police forces local to Cunanan's murders cannot yet close the five murder cases. Investigations to prove Cunanan's hand in all the killings have to continue.

Versace's relatives last night thanked US investigators for clearing up his murder. But some of his fellow designers felt Cunanan's death had brought the case to a suspiciously neat end.

A statement from the Versace family said it wished to express "gratitude and sorrowful thanks to those who had helped resolve Gianni's terrible murder".

But the Roman couturier Gai Mattiolo thought it was "pretty odd that within a week there can be the certainty of having solved the Versace case".

Stefano Dominella of Maison Gattinoni said: "It all seems very peculiar to me ... Only Gianni up there in Heaven could really tell us what the real facts of the matter are".

The mayor of Miami, Alex Penelas, said: "At first the police priority was to bring the suspect out by the use of tear gas. We didn't know the suspect was dead. It was only on the third review of the house that the body was identified".

Frances Robes of the Miami Herald, who managed to get inside police lines around the houseboat, said: "We had waited, and after the Swat team got into the houseboat, we saw men moving around behind the blinds. We wondered what was going on, and it wasn't until much later that they said it was Cunanan."

In a curious twist, Cunanan's death coincides with an impassioned plea by one of his only known female friends to give himself up. Elizabeth Cote, who said that Cunanan was godfather to her children, wrote in an open letter, circulated by the FBI: "The time has come for this to end peacefully".

There was little doubt that Cunanan took his life with the same handgun that he was accused of using to kill Versace. "We found a weapon," said Mr Barreto — whose caution has become a running joke among reporters covering his briefings on the Versace murder — "Which bears similarities to that we were looking for. It has been taken into custody and is being looked at."

It emerged last Tuesday that the weapon used to kill Versace had also killed two of Cunanan's other victims — architect David Madson, Cunanan's former lover, in Minneapolis on May 3, and cemetery caretaker William Reese, in New Jersey six days later.

His other two victims were killed in more sadistic fashion. Naval engineer Jeffrey Trail, a former lover of both Cunanan and Madson, was hacked to death with a claw hammer, and Chicago estate agent Lee Miglin had his face gouged out and his throat cut with a saw.

Despite the scale and drama of the operation last night, the phlegmatic Mr Barreto insisted: "The first we came to believe that Cunanan was inside was when the forensic experts told us that the fingerprints matched".

No one in Miami believed him.

All the evidence now points to Cunanan having come down to Miami in the red truck he stole from Reese — stealing his victim's vehicle and driving it to the scene of the next murder was Cunanan's only signature.

He parked the truck — amazingly containing his passport — in a car park, and seems to have left it there untouched while he staked out his victim and cruised the local gay bars and clubs.

He based himself at the Normandy Plaza motel, paying in cash and going out until "God knows what time", said the motel's owner, at 10 or 11pm.

Cunanan pawned a gold coin stolen from millionaire Miglin, using his own name and signature, and giving his motel address — an apparent invitation to the authorities to catch him.

The detail would have been in the hands of the police since July 8, days before Versace's murder.

Under Florida law, pawn shop owners are required to pass on any pawn contract to the police within 24 hours. Cunanan's details were forwarded, but no action taken.

Trail of death

Chronology of Andrew Cunanan's alleged movements and killings

April 29 - Body of Jeffrey Trail, 28, a gas company manager and Cunanan's first alleged victim, found rolled up in a rug in apartment of architect David Madson, where the three had met. Trail had been bludgeoned with a claw hammer, found nearby

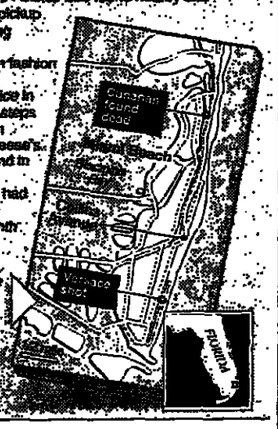
May 3 - The body of Madson, 33, was found by fishermen near a lake about 30 miles north of Minneapolis. He was shot in the back of the head and had been dead for a day.

May 4 - Lee Miglin, 72, a millionaire real estate developer from Chicago, found dead by his wife in their garage. Police speculate Cunanan met Miglin by chance. He was tortured, his throat slashed with a saw, chest stabbed with pruning shears. Madson's red Jeep was found nearby and Miglin's Lexus was missing

May 9 - The body of William Reese, 45, a cemetery caretaker, was discovered at Finn's Point National Cemetery in Pennsville, New Jersey. He had been shot. Miglin's 1994 Lexus was found nearby and Reese's Chevy pickup truck was missing

July 15 - Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace shot twice in the head on the steps of his mansion in Miami Beach. Reese's pickup truck found in a public garage nearby, where it had apparently been parked for a month.

July 23 - After a massive manhunt for Cunanan police are called to a houseboat in Miami Beach, 40 blocks north of Versace's mansion. After a five hour siege, police storm the houseboat and find Cunanan's body



Lords raise chance of freedom for Hindley

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

MYRA Hindley, the Moors murderer, could have her minimum prison term cut from life to 30 years following a landmark House of Lords ruling yesterday in a case brought by another life prisoner.

The Lords held by a 3-2 majority that Michael Howard, the former home secretary, had no power to increase the tariff on John Pierson, who murdered his parents. The tariff — the minimum a life prisoner must serve for purposes of retribution and deterrence — is set by the home secretary following recommendations from the judge and Lord Chief Justice.

Hindley, who has been in prison since 1965, has already served the 30-year tariff imposed in 1985 by the then home secretary, Leon Brittan. In 1990, his successor, David Waddington, increased it to a whole life tariff, but she was not told at the time. Mr Howard confirmed the whole life tariff in 1993.

The ruling will increase the pressure for Hindley's release, although the decision on releasing mandatory lifers is for the Home Secretary. But a decision not to release her would be subject to judicial review.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said: "It does not directly affect the date on which an individual having served that period [the tariff] is released, or whether indeed, in some cases, they will ever be released."

Hindley's judicial review application against the whole life tariff is set for December and yesterday's ruling gives strong backing to her main point: that the Home Secretary had no power to increase her tariff.

The Home Office is understood to be arguing that this only applies to cases where the prisoner was told of the original tariff, which Hindley was not. But it has said in an affidavit prepared for the case that if Pierson won his case her whole life tariff would have to be reconsidered.

Her solicitor, Carolyn Taylor, yesterday urged Mr Straw to clarify Hindley's position. "The reasoning and principles asserted by the majority of judges in this case should equally apply to Myra Hindley. It is wrong for the Home Secretary to increase her tariff when it has been held that there is no general power to increase a tariff once fixed and communicated."

The judgment could apply to two dozen other prisoners who have had their tariffs increased, including some who have been told they will never be released.

Pierson shot his parents with a 12-bore shotgun at their north Wales farmhouse.

The judge and the Lord Chief Justice recommended he should serve a minimum of 15 years, but Douglas Hurd, then home secretary, fixed a tariff of 20 years in 1988. Mr Howard confirmed the 20-year tariff after learning it had been imposed in the mistaken belief that the murder was premeditated. The judges said this amounted to increasing the tariff.

The tariff system is not part of the legislation governing the Home Secretary's wide discretion over lifers, but was spelled out in a series of policy statements from successive Home Secretaries beginning with Mr Brittan in 1983.

Statements by Mr Brittan and a successor, David Waddington, made it clear the tariff, once fixed, would not be increased. Mr Howard's policy statement in 1993 stated for the first time that the original tariff was only an initial view. Lords Steyn and Hope held that the Home Secretary had no power to increase a tariff once fixed because this conflicted with elementary legal principles of fairness, including the right not to have a sentence increased retrospectively.

Lord Goff ruled in Pierson's favour on a more narrow ground: that Mr Howard could not apply his policy to Pierson because his tariff had been fixed by an earlier Home Secretary.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, dissenting, said this was too technical an approach and added: "Much though I personally dislike the effective increase in the tariff of this applicant, I can find no ground on which such increase can be held to be unlawful."

Threat to close lab for mistreating animals

Lucy Patton

UP TO 1,400 jobs could go and thousands of laboratory animals could be slaughtered if the Government carries out a threat to shut down a company found guilty of mistreating animals used for experiments.

The Government said it would revoke Huntingdon Life Sciences' licence to experiment on animals in November if stringent safety conditions were not met.

Following an investigation, two employees have been charged with offences under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act and a third has had his licence revoked.

In a written response to a question from Fiona Jones, Labour MP for Newark, junior Home Office minister, George Howarth, said the company had been investigated by inspectors after a Channel 4 documentary.

They found that Huntingdon Life Sciences, part of pharmaceutical group Huntingdon International Holdings, had committed two breaches of the Act.

Animals had not been cared for properly and their health had not been checked adequately by the inexperienced staff.

Mr Howarth said that in response to criticism, Home Office inspection procedures would be reviewed.

The revocation of Huntingdon's licence which allowed it to experiment on animals was being suspended until the end of November for the sake of the workforce and the animals still owned by the company, Mr Howarth said.

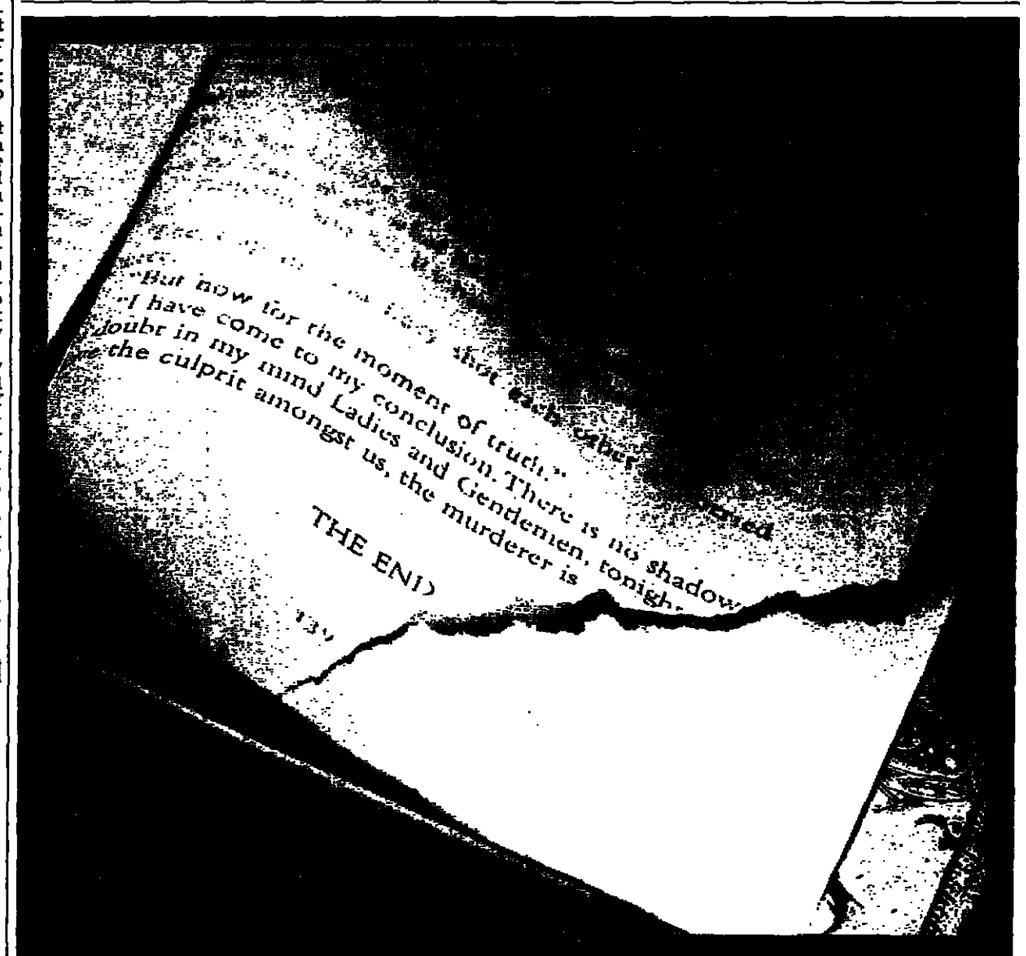
These include up to 1,000 dogs, 10 baboons, 200 marmosets, 450 macaques, 13,000 mice, 35,000 rats, 2,000 rabbits, 4,000 guinea pigs, 3,000 birds and 4,000 fish.

Sixteen stringent conditions relating to the proper treatment of all the animals have been set which must be met before any new application can be considered, Mr Howarth said.

In future, all commercial dog facilities will be required to conform to national standards and a new code of conduct for animal experiments will also be created.

Christopher Cliffe, Huntingdon's chief executive, admitted there had been "certain weaknesses and failures" in the dog toxicology department, but said the other animals used by the company were not involved.

He claimed internal procedures had been tightened in April.



AT LEAST YOU WOULDN'T BE IN SUSPENSE WITH AN ABBEYLOAN.

Ranging from £500 to £15,000, an Abbeyloan is flexible to suit your needs. You could have a decision over the phone in 15 minutes or less, so call and take the wait off your mind.

0345 57 58 59
quoting reference 7248

ABBEY NATIONAL®
www.abbeynational.co.uk

M26

Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm and Saturday 8am to 4pm. To assist us in improving our service we may record or monitor telephone calls. Loans and pricing are subject to status and not available to persons under the age of 18. Written quotations available on request. Please do not enter into a loan agreement unless you can afford the repayments. Abbey National reserves the right to refuse an application for a loan for certain purposes. Abbey National and the Umbrella Couple symbol are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.

If Leon Taylor wins an Olympic medal for diving he will owe most of his thanks to his parents and none to the Government or any sports governing body.

Nick Varley on investing in our Olympic hopes

Sport97 page 8

Lords make UK firms globally liable in law

Paul Brown and Greg Dropkin

THE House of Lords, in a ground-breaking judgment yesterday, held that the world's largest mining company could be sued by employees for negligence in London, for injuries received thousands of miles away.

The decision opens the door for other multi-nationals with headquarters in London to be sued for actions of their overseas subsiduaries.

Yesterday's case involved Scottish engineer Edward Connelly, who developed throat cancer after working in the Rossing uranium mine in Namibia, owned by RTZ. He was exposed to high levels of radioactive uranium and silicia dust and had his larynx removed in 1986. He is seeking £400,000 damages.

The Law Lords held that the case could not be properly held in Namibia because the highly professional representation, from legal and scientific experts, was not available there. For the achievement of substantial justice it was reasonable that the case should be heard in the United Kingdom.

Another fundamental issue was one of legal aid, which was not available in Namibia. The Lords was told that Mr Connelly's legal team were prepared to work on the case for a fee conditional on a successful outcome to the case.

Richard Meeran, of Leigh Day & Co said: "This is a clear case of an English parent company trying to avoid its responsibilities for a dangerous process carried out abroad. Mr Connelly has been battling for three years to get his case heard here. Now we can at last get on with obtaining some compensation for his serious injuries.

"We will be contacting the Mineworkers Union of Namibia and encouraging claims by their members as well."

Mr Connelly said he was delighted with the decision, adding: "It has renewed my faith in British justice. It has been a long hard struggle, and I now look forward to giving evidence."

Mr Connelly was 27 and newly married when he started at Rossing in May 1977. The RTZ mine in South African occupied Namibia was anxious to fulfil contracts to supply the British civil and military nuclear programmes, and electricity companies in France and Japan.

As giant granite boulders were tipped into an ore crusher, Mr Connelly repaired machinery day and night, working on one crusher while another continued to spew radioactive uranium and quartz dust. He insists he was never given a face mask, and his account is confirmed by Namibians who worked there then.

He left Rossing in 1982, and four years later was diagnosed with throat cancer and had his larynx removed. He remains in fragile health and speaks in a rasping whisper.

RTZ emphasised that the Lords decision "has only to do with where the case should be heard, and not on its merits". It added: "Whilst we have every sympathy for Mr Connelly, as far we are concerned and as far as we know, his condition has nothing to do with his employment in Namibia."

Know what I mean?: A calmer Liam Gallagher signs autographs for fans outside his home after the caution from police yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MOORE

Liam Gallagher cautioned for road rage attack

Clare Longrigg

OASIS singer Liam Gallagher, 24, was given a formal caution for criminal damage by police yesterday after a road rage incident involving his Mercedes and a bicycle.

The incident, which happened in Camden, north London, on July 10, arose from an argument between the rock star and a 33-year-old cyclist.

The cyclist, who has not been named, said he had been cut up by Gallagher's Mercedes in Camden High Street and shouted at the driver. Gallagher, who was a passenger in the car, allegedly responded with his trademark obscene gesture, and the two men started shouting abuse at each other.

According to a police statement, Gallagher leaned out of the car window and grabbed the cyclist's shirt, pulling him along with the car. The man was unhurt.

When the car stopped, the singer got out, took off the cyclist's sunglasses, and stamped on them, before getting back in the car and driving off.

It is not known whether Gallagher has said sorry, but his solicitor, Anthony Burton, said yesterday: "The decision to caution Mr Gallagher was acceptable to all parties including the complainant."

It is the second time in 12 months that Gallagher has been formally cautioned by police. Last November he was cautioned for possession of cocaine after leaving a trail of destruction on a night in London, beginning with the wrecking of a snooker room at the Groucho Club and ending with his arrest in Oxford Street.

Dame Olga Maitland, the former Tory MP, yesterday said the police had made "an error of judgment".

She added: "He has already misbehaved once and been given a caution. To let him off so lightly the second time puts out the wrong message. This was an act of pure thuggery."

A spokeswoman for the London Cycling Campaign, a pressure group campaigning for more protected cycle routes in London, said: "It seems that he used his car as a weapon and put this cyclist in serious danger, so to just get a caution does seem too lenient."

Angela Deane, who saw the incident, said: "The person grabbed the man's glasses and stamped on them, and was hurling abuse. It was Liam and he had his bodyguard next to him. The cyclist seemed very mild mannered and he didn't want the fight or the confrontation. He didn't go back and retaliate."

Review of Radio 4 backed

Andrew Culf
Media Correspondent

RADIO 4's biggest shake-up in more than a decade was approved yesterday by the BBC's governors. The revised schedule — which includes a new daily interview programme at 9am, the extension of Today, and the axeing of Afternoon Shift — will be unveiled next week by the Radio 4 controller, James Boyle.

In a statement the governors said: "The BBC's proposals for Radio 4 were entirely in keeping with its best traditions, cultures and values."

They praised Mr Boyle for his thorough review and said there had been widespread consultation. However, they plan to continue monitoring the changes, asking for a further report on Radio 4's commissioning process and audience attitudes in the autumn.

They said: "The governors believe Radio 4 is a unique national institution, representing much that is best about public service broadcasting. Radio 4 shall continue to be the home of the widest range of intelligent, engrossing speech.

"The governors ... do not wish Radio 4 to seek a younger audience, and would not countenance the network becoming either less demanding or less rewarding for its ... thoughtful listeners."

The importance of news programmes is evident in the shake-up: a new hour-long current affairs magazine will be broadcast at 9am on Sunday, Today will start 30 minutes earlier at 6am, The World at One will lose 10 minutes and PM, remaining at 5pm, will gain 10 minutes.

After a short visit to the United States, Mr Boyle will outline his plans on Wednesday, and then brief Radio 4 staff and visit BBC offices in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Listeners will be given a helpline number to obtain information on the new schedule, which begins next April.

The changes are designed to reverse the severe dip in the daily ratings when the Today programme ends — audiences drop from 2.2 million to 500,000 in two hours. Mr Boyle also wants to increase listeners' loyalty to individual Radio 4 programmes.

Changes already on the cards include a daily 9am talk programme, presented by Mark Lawson, Libby Purves and Melvyn Bragg.

The Moral Maze and Call Ed Stourton are likely to switch to evenings, and Woman's Hour will start earlier at 10am.

Dramas longer than an hour will be dropped, and Farming Today, Sport on 4, Breakaway and Medium-wave, face the axe. The Archers will gain a sixth weekly edition and an extended omnibus on Sunday.

Public backs BA strikers in dispute over pay cuts

Seumas Milne
Labour Editor

STRIKING British Airways cabin staff attracted strong support from the public, according to an opinion poll commissioned by the Trades Union Congress, but kept secret to avoid provoking BA management during the current talks.

In a finding which highlights the turnround in trade union popularity in recent years and BA's failure to win the PR war over the dispute, the NOP poll reveals two-to-one backing for the cabin crews' industrial action over the imposition of pay and conditions cuts.

Details of the poll, passed to the Guardian, show that 57 per cent of the 1,000 people questioned agreed that BA staff had been "fully justified" in striking because of lack of consultation and management intimidation; 24 per cent backed the management.

John Monks, the TUC leader, said on Wednesday — the first day of talks between BA managers and Transport and General Workers' Union officials at Heathrow — that he had not published the results so as not to "stoke up" the dispute. The poll was done during and after the three-day walkout this month.

Talks are being mediated by Acas, the conciliation service, and centre on proposals from the TGWU to meet BA's £42 million cuts target.

BA said yesterday that it would need to "fully digest the details" of the poll before responding.

Roads review warning

'Dirty dozen' will jump-start ruin of environment, say groups

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

A HEAVYWEIGHT alliance of Britain's top environmental organisations has warned Tony Blair of its "profound concern" about the outcome of the Government's roads review, and urged him to abandon schemes that cause "unacceptable environmental and wildlife destruction".

Eleven organisations — supported by 2 million overall — including Friends of the Earth, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, Worldwide Fund for Nature UK, and Transport 2000, have written to the Prime Minister ahead of Monday's announcement of the fate of a "dirty dozen" road schemes.

The letter warns: "Many of the proposed roads would cause unacceptable destruction ... should they be built, we fear lasting damage would be done to your Government's credibility on climate change, wildlife and countryside protection and sustainable transport policies."

The organisations claim the outcome of the review will be "a test case of Labour's commitment to reduce climate change and health-threatening pollutants". Although the review will determine the future of 12 schemes within an "accelerated" wider review of the road-building programme drawn up by the Tories, the groups say the decisions will affect the fate of another 25 roads, as well as 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

They believe the Government is hoping to switch attention from some of the more environmentally damaging schemes, by scrapping the Salisbury bypass and the widening of the M25.

Friends of the Earth points out that Labour declared itself "opposed to building roads through Sites of Special Scientific Interest", and said it would "operate the strongest possible presumption against such construction".

Children at risk through lack of legal controls on nannies

Emily Sheffield

THOUSANDS of children are put at risk every year due to lack of control over nannies and their agencies, according to a new pressure group which called yesterday for compulsory registration.

The group, Playpen, wants nannies to go through the same checks as registered child-minders.

Playpen was founded by Cheryl Winton — whose daughter was brain-damaged when violently shaken by a nanny — and Nina Kaye, director of a nanny agency.

Ms Kaye said: "At the moment the hardest thing for someone attempting to set up a nanny agency is thinking up the company name."

Their call follows the recent conviction of Angela Lee, a registered child-minder, for killing a baby in her care.

"Angela Lee will never be able to work as a child-minder again but she could become a nanny any day," said Ms Kaye. "No parent would be the wiser."

Nannies have sole care of babies and children, yet they are not subject to any controls — they do not even have to possess a current first-aid certificate.

Child-minders must be registered with social services by law. They also undergo police checks, and are personally vetted and subject to continued scrutiny.

There are no such regulations for nannies because the relationship between a nanny and employer is said to be private.

Most British eggs from cruelly-caged hens

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

MORE than 80 per cent of British eggs are from chickens kept in unacceptably small battery cages, the Government has been told by its independent advisers on animal welfare.

The Farm Animal Welfare Council wants each hen to be allowed at least a third more space, and hopes battery cages will be phased out altogether by the European Union.

But council chairman Professor Sir Colin Spedding said the best hope for battery hen welfare came from supermarkets enforcing new standards on their suppliers. He said he had already been in talks with Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Sainsburys and Safeways, and all said they were prepared to outlaw cruel battery methods.

"If we have to wait for the EU to act we will be waiting a long time, but supermarkets can apply pressure and get immediate results," he said.

Sir Colin said there was cruelty involved in keeping free range chickens, too. The practice of beak clipping to prevent feather pecking and cannibalism caused severe pain to adult chickens, although it was widely practiced in free range flocks.

Feeding patterns of hens appeared to encourage aggressive behaviour and the team wanted research into whether behaviour could be improved by a changed diet. In any event, the council recommended an immediate halt to the feeding of animal protein to chickens as a precaution against any repeat of the BSE problems in cattle.

The council recommended that the EU standard battery cage floor area per hen should be increased immediately from 450 sq cm to 600 sq cm, and enforced within five years. This must be done on an EU -wide basis to avoid unfair competition to British producers. The increased space would allow chickens to move about naturally and prevent broken bones and other weaknesses caused by battery caging.

Elliot Morley, animal welfare minister, said the report supported the government view that battery cages should be phased out. However it also correctly identified that alternative systems had to be developed that provided better welfare and did not put domestic producers at a disadvantage.

Compassion in World Farming described the report as deeply disappointing and mealy-mouthed. Campaigns director Philip Lymbery said: "The battery cage is one of the oldest and cruellest of the factory farm systems. About 85 per cent of Britain's laying hens are imprisoned for life in tiny battery cages so small that they cannot even stretch their wings."

Peter Burke with his sculpture. Host, of reclaimed copper and steel, at Goodwood, West Sussex PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

Balls rebound

John Ezard

ENTHUSIASTS of the Isle of White Pétanque Society found themselves at a disadvantage when stray golf balls started disrupting their sedate games. They could not retaliate in the usual sporting way — because their own balls weighed 1½lbs — so they demanded that the golf driving range, source of the missiles, be closed down.

But the upshot is that one of the prime national pitches for the British Pétanque Championships has now been lost. The pitch, in Westridge golf club's car park, Ryde, has been closed down by the club owner, Mark Wright.

One of the reasons pétanque, a French peasant game akin to bowls, has spread so widely in Britain during the past 20 years is that it needs only a patch of levelled rough ground with gravel cover. The game has 300 British clubs with 5,000 members, 600 of them on the island.

The Ryde site was picked for last September's national contest for its access to the amenities of Westridge leisure centre. It was a success until the day of the straying golf ball.

The players' verbal response to the mishap was described as "forthright" and provoked from the range a volley of well-aimed balls which allegedly struck cars and one society member. The Pétanque Society then tabled its demands. Mr Wright, a professional golfer, said: "When they demanded that I close down the range, it was like a red rag to a bull. I felt my hospitality was being abused. So I wrote a letter saying they were no longer welcome, and that any use of the grounds would result in prosecution for trespass."

Tories propose US-style primary elections for city mayors

James Meikle
Community Affairs Editor

AMERICAN-style election razzmatazz is about to hit Britain, after the Conservatives announced yesterday plans to introduce "primary" contests to determine their candidates for new directly elected mayors in London and other cities.

Proposals for Conservative heavyweights (Lord Archer and the former transport minister Steve Norris), to slug it out for the party ticket to lead London were unveiled by Sir Norman Fowler, shadow environment secretary.

He said: "Who becomes London mayor is very important. He or she will be one of the leading political figures in the country, and we are going to need to see how parties choose their leader, and whether we have the kind of primary system they have in the US.

"It is an open secret there are already a number of people interested in running for it. That is great news. It underlines that local government can be exciting and can attract some very well-known and very good people into it. We are now into new territory and we need, whatever we do, new procedures. Obviously this is one of the options we will need to look at."

Sir Norman made clear the London mayor would be elected by the city's seven million voters on the strength of his or her personality as well as a party label.

The idea comes just a week after Sir Norman ended years of Tory opposition to the concept of a directly elected mayor for London. The party remains strongly against a 32-member assembly, a regional development agency and a revamped government office for London, expected to be confirmed in a government document next week.

Sir Norman said: "This gives London more layers than a wedding cake and a recipe for political gridlock."

Liberal Democrats were scornful of the proposal for primaries. Simon Hughes MP, the party spokesman for London, said the idea reinforced arguments that presidential government in the form of a directly elected mayor was not the most suitable system.

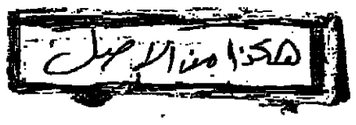
"A system of local primaries will move London towards an era of personality politics and away from the most democratically and regional accountable form of government in London — a strategic authority.

"We would expect such an authority to elect their leader from amongst their number, to act as the principal ambassador for London."

Local government leaders are also sceptical about the idea, especially if it spreads outside London. Sir Jeremy Beecham, Labour chair of the local government association, welcomed scope for experimentation but questioned how mayoral campaigns would be funded and if such a system would leave room for truly independent candidates.

He added: "If power is vested in the hands of a mayor, who is going to be interested in voting for the rest of the council? Presumably you would have to have members of the party voting in that primary election, so it should not take Conservatives very long to do that."

● The Government will announce today detailed plans to scrap the compulsory competitive tendering regime for local councils, and replace it with a new system of achieving best value in local service.



هكذا من الاصل

Ofsted report criticised standards

Expelled girl's views echo inspectors'

'Tight budget led to staff cuts'

John Carvel
Education Editor

SARAH Briggs, the 15-year-old expelled for publicly criticising Queen Elizabeth's School in Mansfield, was voicing opinions shared by inspectors, who found that educational standards at the Nottinghamshire comprehensive were "still not acceptable".

In the Office for Standards in Education report published last year, inspectors pointed to "significant reductions in the number of staff at the school due to cutbacks in its budget at the beginning of the financial year 1995/96."

They said: "Long-term absences and difficulties in appointing the right staff to key teaching posts have seriously affected the quality of education in a number of curriculum areas."

> 'Poor behaviour, attendance and exclusions were serious concerns'

In a direct reference to the problem Sarah raised about temporary teachers unaware of pupils' performance and needs, they noted that "costs for supply teachers are four times the national average".

Sources connected with the school who contacted the Guardian yesterday claimed that these problems continued this year and were exacerbated when teachers in the school's senior management team were withdrawn from lessons to carry out other duties. It was alleged that no timetable had been drawn up for next term.

The comprehensive is an amalgamation of a boys' and a girls' school on a single site two years ago. It is voluntary-aided, outside local authority control, and linked to a well-endowed foundation dating from Tudor times with considerable assets in the town.

The inspectors said many of the 625 pupils came from deprived backgrounds in a former mining area with unemployment well above the county average. They were predominantly white. Nearly 100 had special educational needs, and 39 per cent were eligible for free school meals.

"Pupils' attitudes to learning are very varied, with an unsatisfactory approach in a quarter of lessons, and in only one third of lessons do pupils respond with positive interest," they said. "A major contributory factor is the poor behaviour shown by a significant minority ... This is a serious weakness."

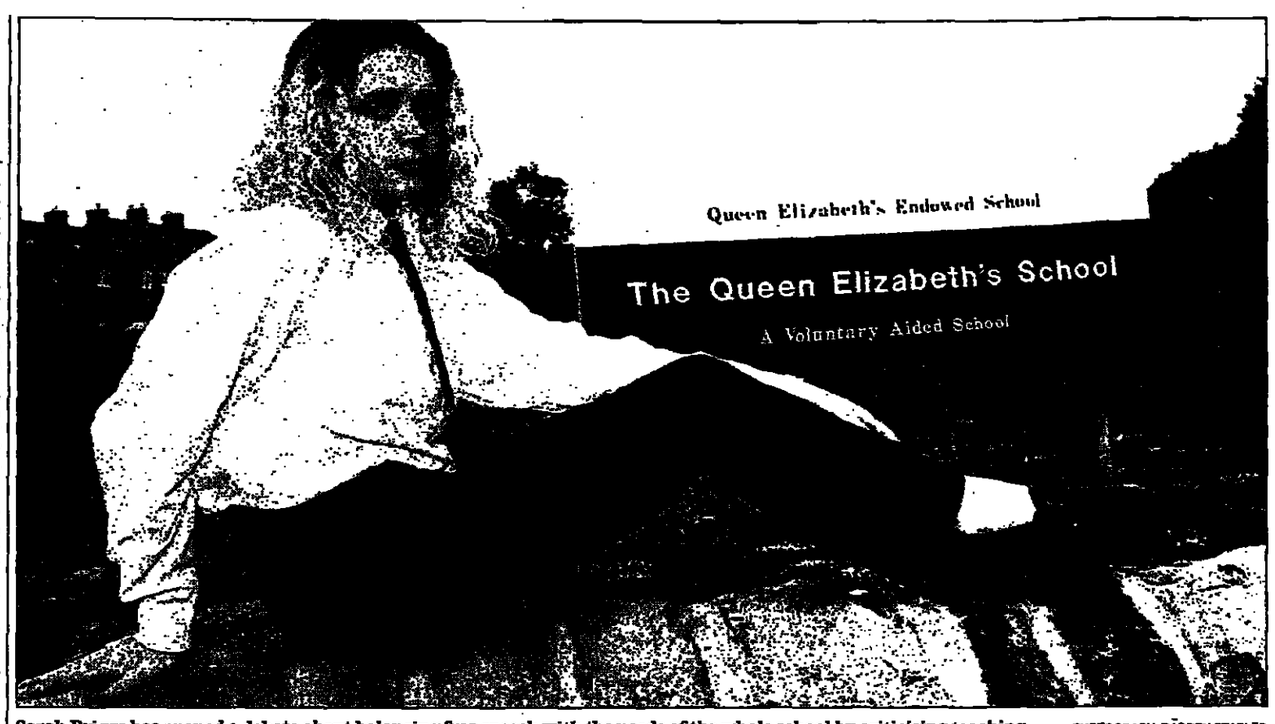
They found some evidence of improvement. Over the past three years the proportion of pupils getting five good grades at GCSE had almost doubled, and A level performance was also improving. But the results were still below the national average.

The staff got some of the blame: "The proportion of teaching which fails to promote sound or high educational standards is a serious deficiency. More than one in five lessons had unsatisfactory or poor teaching. Teaching in 3 per cent of lessons promoted very good or excellent educational standards ...

"In the unsatisfactory lessons, planning is inconsistent. Many teachers, across the whole curriculum, adopt a range of teaching strategies that is too narrow for the high proportion of pupils with special educational needs ...

"The current low achievement of the pupils, their sporadic educational progress in lessons, poor attendance and the presence of pockets of very poor behaviour mean that value for money is not yet being achieved."

The management team was strong and well supported by the governing body, whose members played a significant part in helping the school plan for the future. But there were serious concerns about behaviour, poor attendance and a high level of exclusions. "The self-esteem of many pupils, particularly in the lower and middle ability bands, is low."



Sarah Briggs has opened a debate about balancing free speech with the needs of the whole school by criticising teaching PHOTOGRAPH: DARREN STAPLES

> 'She has had all these years of education to state her own opinions. Now when they have got to that age when they can state their own opinions, they're getting into trouble for it. To me it's not right'
> **Sarah's father, David Briggs**

Perils of being confident and motivated

Sarah Briggs may have just the qualities powers-that-be want to see, says **David Ward**

IN THEIR report on Queen Elizabeth's School, the Government's inspectors recommended that staff should help pupils develop more confidence and encourage them to show more self-motivation.

Senior managers and governors may be reflecting that 15-year-old Sarah Briggs, who could be expelled for airing her criticisms of her school in a local paper, may have too much of those qualities.

Yesterday, academics, headteachers and Sarah's parents were considering the fine line that has to be drawn between the right of free expression of an individual pupil and the needs of the whole school.

Sarah's father David Briggs, puzzled by the whole affair, said: "She has had all these years of education to state her own opinions. Now when they have got to that age when they can state their own opinions, they're getting into trouble for it. To me it's not right."

Nicola Atkin, head of Queen Elizabeth's, had told the Briggs family that Sarah's complaints about supply teachers and action to be taken after the inspection could affect the school's ability to attract pupils.

But Harry Tomlinson, a member of the group developing the Government's new qualification for headteachers, said the actions of the head and governors would be much more likely to make parents think twice about sending their children to the school than those of Ms Briggs.

"If you have a pupil who is articulate enough to take on the school, then you ought to take pride in her ability rather than remove her," said Mr Tomlinson, a former headteacher and now principal lecturer in education management at Leeds Metropolitan University. "I don't see what the school's problem is. I think they are doing more damage than the girl could ever do.

"Perhaps they ought to reconsider and address the issues she has raised."

Margaret Maden, professor of education at Keele University, wondered whether the school had investigated the truth of Sarah's allegations about damage to her education at a time of increasing pressure for academic success. "We have evidence that pupils have increasing anxiety about catching up and keeping up with work. She is expressing something that some of us believe to be a major concern."

Sarah had got herself into a fix because she may not have been trained to handle a conflict between an individual and institution. "The traditional view sees the pupil as subservient. The major purpose of the school is learning and yet here a girl is being told that it is not actually her learning that is the major issue but rather the image and reputation of the school."

Patrick Eavis, who retires this month as head of the Queen Elizabeth high school in Hexham, Northumberland, and is now training to train heads in the new qualification, had placed his faith in an "effective and prestigious" school council established a year after he joined the school in 1980.

It was made up of 10 pupils, with a deputy head present to note and relay concerns, often featuring school meals and uniform. Mr Eavis reported on his actions to school assemblies — including his decision to abandon the school tie.

"Schools should be organised in such a way that people can express their opinions. Few schools, in my experience, have adequate and successful school councils," he said.

It would be tempting but foolish to dodge awkward issues. "Once you positively encourage people to express their point of view and reflect critically on the institution, you have to take what they say very seriously."

He saw himself less as a figure with ultimate power than as a member of a community which tried to arrive at "mutually agreeable solutions".

A mortgage quote in 10 minutes flat. No wonder it's called a hotline.

Make a quick call to TSB PhoneBank for a free mortgage quote. Because you'll save yourself a lot of time by finding out exactly how much you can borrow before you go house hunting.

So if you want a free quote in ten minutes flat, ring TSB PhoneBank on the number below and simply ask for it.

CALL FREE 0500 758 000
Quoting ref GUH2

Mortgage Quotation Line

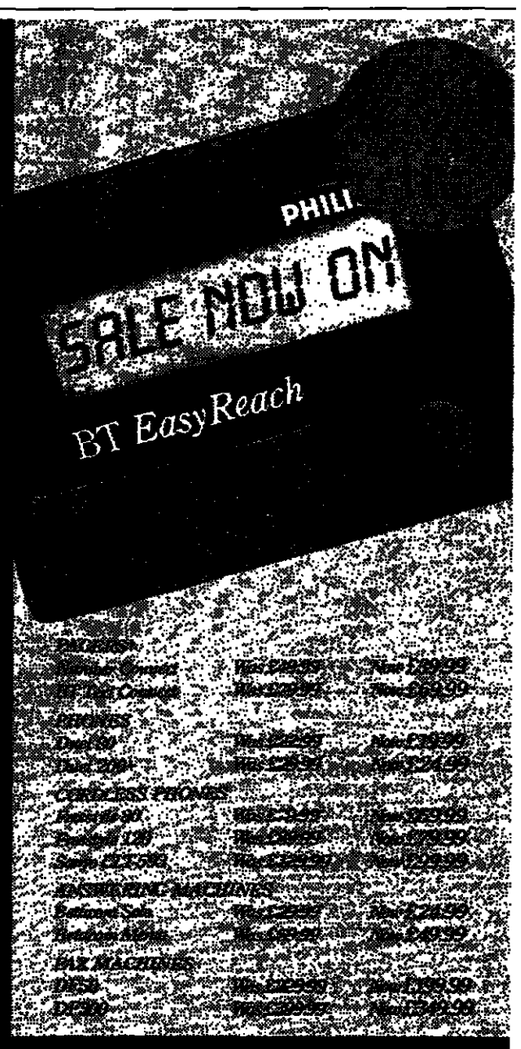
TSB We want you to say YES

Calls may be recorded and monitored. A TSB Cheque account is required. Assignment/assignation of a suitable life policy may be required by the Bank as security. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. All loans subject to status. Not available in the Channel Islands. Written quotations are available on request by calling 0500 758 000. TSB Bank plc and TSB Bank Scotland plc are representatives of the TSB Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority only for TSB life insurance, pensions, unit trusts and offshore investments. Advice or recommendations relate only to the investments of the TSB Marketing Group. TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ. Registered in England and Wales. Number 1088268. TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House, 180 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH. Registered in Scotland. Number 95237

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

This pager holds thirty messages.

Here's just one of them.



BT Shops
The communication experts on the high street
Summer Sale
For details of your nearest BT Shop, call Freefone 0800 400 004

BT

*The free gifts are: HEAD Evolution Disc Bag with purchase of Alpha, Cello & Text Connect. HEAD Hero Rip Wallet with purchase of Number Connect & Duo. While stocks last. †Messages are charged to the caller at 55p per call peak time (8am-6pm Monday to Friday) and 35p per call off peak. Calls from BT Payphones, mobile phones, non BT networks and BT Chargecards are charged at different rates.

£1,000 lure for science course

Gary Younge

FOR sixth formers with a head for science and an eye on their bank accounts comes a chance to start university at least breaking even.

A day after Sir Ron Dearing proposed that full-time undergraduates be charged a £1,000 annual tuition fee, it has emerged that universities are offering students who want to study materials science a £1,000 lump sum if they get at least three Bs at A level.

More than 20 universities are offering golden hellos to students applying for degree courses in the undersubscribed subject.

Brian Heap, author of a guide on university courses, said: "It is most paradoxical that they are charging students £1,000 a year on the one hand and then giving them the chance to claw it back with the other.

"No one understands what materials science is, so only a few apply to do it — yet it's one of the most exciting research areas."

It has its roots in metallurgy and involves analysis of materials to see how they break down and interact.

Mr Heap said the offer of bursaries could boost interest in a subject that had expanded to cover all materials. "The tiles on a spaceship which protect it from heat use the same principles that apply on a ceramic hob. It's amazing."

Woman who fled to Florida with boy of 14 faces child sex trial

Alison Daniels

A WOMAN who ran off to Florida with a 14-year-old boy is to be tried in the state and could face a lengthy jail sentence after being arrested and charged with sexually assaulting a child.

Tracey Whalin, a 33-year-old mother of three children, abandoned her family home in Bilborough, Nottinghamshire, 11 days ago and flew to Orlando, Florida, with one of her son's best friends, Sean Kinsella, from Chilwell.

Yesterday a Monroe County Court judge, William Ptomey Jnr, decided to press ahead with a case and set bail of $175,000. Unless Mrs Whalin can raise the money, she will remain in a women's detention centre in Plantation Key and face trial in several months.

After pleas by the couple's relatives for them to return home and a search by the FBI, the law caught up with Mrs Whalin and Sean, an Ipswich Town youth player, on Wednesday night in an apartment in the Ocean Point complex in Plantation Key on the southern tip of Florida.

Sean was taken into protective custody and is being cared for in a children's home. He is expected to fly home tomorrow.

Mrs Whalin has been charged with a second degree felony of carrying out a lewd or indecent assault on a child over 12 and under 16, which carries a maximum penalty of 15 years. She is also charged with a third degree felony charge of interference with custody, equivalent to abduction, which carries a five-year sentence.

At the bond hearing Judge Ptomey also listed a number of bail conditions in the event of the bond being paid.

Mrs Whalin is forbidden from making contact with Sean or his family, cannot leave Monroe or Daid counties, and will have to report to the Department of Correction in Plantation Key three times a week.

According to court administrator Theresa Westerfield, Mrs Whalin will appear again before a court in three weeks, when the state of Florida will formally file charges. Unless lawyers agree on a plea bargaining deal, a trial date is likely to be set for September.

The assistant state attorney, Rayme Suarez, who will be prosecuting in the case, said Mrs Whalin did not qualify for a state attorney as she had $4,000 in cash with her. She said any jail sentence would depend on whether the offences were Mrs Whalin's first.

Police in Nottingham said Mrs Whalin had been traced after making a telephone call to Sean's mother Beryl, 37, on Tuesday evening to inform her that her son was safe.

Sean's mother was staying with relatives, but Sean's uncle, Ian Anderson, said she and Sean's brother, Mark, 18, were delighted and relieved he had been found. Sean's father died four years ago.

Florida Child and Family Services Department said they had been in contact with Sean's family and said was he was physically fine but seemed depressed. "He's obviously been through a difficult time and the arrest of this woman has been traumatic for him. He is rather confused. He is still a child and this sort of thing should not happen to a child."

Donna Bible, manager of the four-star Ocean Point complex, said the couple had not come to anyone's attention during their stay and described them as well behaved.

Sean's family reported him missing on July 14 after his mother discovered he had taken his clothes and failed to turn up at Bramcote Hills school. Mrs Whalin reportedly left her unemployed husband, David, a note and withdrew £3,000 from the family account. The pair were later seen at Peterborough passport office.

After their disappearance it emerged that Mrs Whalin became friendly with Sean through her son, Ross. The boys are good friends and Mrs Whalin regularly watched their under-14 football matches.

Tracey Whalin, now in custody, met Sean Kinsella through her son. She used to watch them playing soccer together

News in brief

Professional body for teachers

THE Government yesterday published plans for a general teaching council to improve the standards and status of the profession in England, in much the same way that the General Medical Council works for doctors. When the body is set up in 2000, teachers may be required to register and pay an annual subscription of about £10 as a condition of employment.

Stephen Byers, the schools minister, said the six teaching unions would not be allowed to dominate the council although they will have minority representation alongside parents, governors, the churches and other interested parties. Union leaders said they were insulted by his implication that they could not be trusted to promote professionalism.

A Government consultation paper said the GTC would give teachers "a clear professional voice" and restore battered morale. "We are not interested in a talking shop or a body to defend the way things are. An effective GTC must be an engine for change", it said.

The powers envisaged for the GTC in England are less than those given to a similar body which already exists in Scotland. It would be able to advise on barring teachers, but the Education Secretary would retain the final say. — *John Carvel*

Council KO's boxing

COUNCILLORS in Bury, Greater Manchester, have voted to ban professional boxing on local authority premises — although amateur bouts will be allowed to continue. The British Boxing Board of Control said it will seek legal advice over whether it can challenge the decision in the courts.

Council leader Derek Boden cited Mike Tyson's ear-biting of Evander Holyfield in their world heavyweight title bout as an example of "unacceptable levels of harm" being caused in the sport. "I believe that we have a duty of care," he said.

Actor Brian Glover dies at 63

YORKSHIRE actor Brian Glover, right, the voice behind the Tetley Tea commercials and prolific star of television and film, died peacefully in his sleep yesterday, aged 63. He had suffered a relapse in his fight against a brain tumour, said his agent, Bruna Zanelli.

Bullet-headed Glover, a former professional wrestler, made dozens of appearances on television, including Porridge, Minder and Bottom.

His film appearances included Kes, An American Werewolf In London, Alien 3 and Leon The Pig Farmer.

Obituary, page 14

Instants game show

NATIONAL Lottery director general Peter Davis yesterday approved a TV game show based on Instants scratchcards, with a top prize of £100,000. Camelot was given the go-ahead for the programme, TV Dreams, to be broadcast by the BBC, probably on Saturday or Wednesday nights from late autumn. — *Andrew Culf*

Call for ban on 'Aryan' festival

MEP GLENYS Kinnock yesterday called for the banning of an "Aryan Music Festival" in Wales expected to attract hundreds of fascists from Europe and North America. The festival, scheduled for August 9, has been exposed by the anti-fascist magazine Searchlight. Mrs Kinnock called on the council and police to stop "waves of fascists" coming for the event. — *Gary Younge*

Labour suspensions likely

LABOUR is set to suspend all its district members in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, which has been hit by allegations of council corruption. The party's National Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday is likely to accept a recommendation from officials in Yorkshire to take "strong steps" against members. Police are investigating claims of abuse of foreign trips, expenses and hospitality. There are also allegations over links with developers.

Washed out for cleanliness

A STUDY by Westminster University found 41 per cent of British men and 19 per cent of British women do not wash their hands after using the lavatory.

Dixons DEAL 97
THE BEST MOBILE PHONE OFFER ON THE HIGH STREET
Bigger and Better than Ever!
PRICE — WE CAN'T BE BEATEN
One visit, and you'll find out why.
EVERYTHING YOU NEED
THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY
ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST
QUALITY GUARANTEED
SAVE OVER £100†
ON THESE AMAZING ONE YEAR MOBILE PACKAGES
PACKAGE INCLUDES
PHONE
CONNECTION NORMAL PRICE £29.50
12 MONTHS PRE-PAID LINE RENTAL NORMAL PRICE £179.88
MOTOROLA A130 MOBILE PHONE
• Up to 120 minutes talktime/48 hours standby time.
• 30 name and number memory.
• Permanent signal/battery strength indicator.
• Backlit keypad and display.
All-in Package Price £99.99*
SAVE OVER £119† HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS
SONY 444 MOBILE PHONE
• Up to 120 minutes talktime/20 hours standby time.
• Integrated clock/alarm.
• 99 name and number memory.
• Last number redial.
All-in Package Price £99.99*
SAVE OVER £114† HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS
NEC P800 MOBILE PHONE
• 100 minutes talktime/up to 27 hours standby time.
• 99 locations memory.
• Backlit keypad and display.
• Battery and signal strength indicators.
All-in Package Price £99.99*
SAVE OVER £119† HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS
NOKIA 232 MOBILE PHONE
• 70 minutes talktime/16 hours standby time.
• 98 alphanumeric memory.
• Security lock.
• Battery/signal strength indicators.
All-in Package Price £99.99*
SAVE OVER £129† HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS
ERICSSON EH238 MOBILE PHONE
• Up to 120 minutes talktime/23 hours standby time.
• PIN number security.
• 99 name and number memory.
• Easy access to VoiceMail.
All-in Package Price £99.99*
SAVE OVER £139† HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS
cellnet
NATIONAL COVERAGE AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE
Dixons
There's a Great Deal going on

£100,000 OF LIFE INSURANCE FROM £8.73 A MONTH*
• Civil Servants
• Town Hall Employees
• Teachers
• Lecturers
• Post Office Staff
• NHS Staff
• Police
• Nurses
• Fire Service
• Prison Officers
• Ambulance Service
Offer also applies to spouses
It only costs a little to leave them a lot
A Zurich Municipal Term Assurance Policy can provide £100,000 for your family if you die. And if you work in the public sector, you get a 15% discount which means you could pay a monthly premium of just £8.73*. It's easy, too – a phone call can secure immediate cover in minutes.
Call us now to find out more. One day, your family might be very glad you did.
LIFE INSURANCE 0800 147 147
Open: 9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat
For your security, all telephone calls on the above number will be recorded and randomly monitored.
PLEASE QUOTE REF: LGU2507
ZURICH MUNICIPAL
Focusing on the Public Sector

مكرر من الأصل

SCOTTISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER: Extra cash per head to continue □ Negotiating role in Europe included in powers

Scots given blueprint for self-rule

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

THE white paper on Scottish devolution published yesterday sets out in detail the proposal for a 129-member Scottish Parliament, elected by PR for a fixed four-year term. Unlike the much more limited version proposed for Wales, the Scottish parliament will have tax raising and legislative powers.

The proposal will be put to the Scots in a referendum on September 11. If Scots vote Yes, a bill will follow in the autumn. Elections to the parliament are scheduled for 1999 *and the parliament* will become fully operational in 2000.

Powers

The Scottish Parliament will have responsibility for: health; education and training; local government, social work and housing; economic development and transport; law and home affairs; environment; agriculture, fisheries and forestry; sport and *the arts; research* and statistics.

The powers and responsibilities to be retained by the Westminster Parliament will be: the constitution of the UK: foreign policy, including relations with Europe; UK defence and national security; *stability of the UK's fiscal*, economic and monetary system; employment legislation; social security; and most aspects of transport safety and regulation.

Other responsibilities to be retained by Westminster include: nuclear safety; control and safety of medicines; the regulatory framework for broadcasting and film classification; the licensing of theatres and cinemas. There are social and moral issues too: Westminster will retain control over abortion, human fertilisation and equality *legislation*.

Westminster

The white paper stresses that creation of a Scottish Parliament is about devolution, not independence: "Scotland will remain an integral part of the United Kingdom *and the Queen will continue* to be Head of State of the United Kingdom. The UK Parliament is and will remain sovereign."

There is a grey area over whether a Scottish parliament could debate and then opt for independence, though *the white paper implies such* a decision could only be taken by Westminster as the sovereign body.

The role of the Scottish Secretary, sitting in the Cabinet, is to be retained, at least in the short-term. In cases of disagreement between Westminster and the Scottish parliament, an elaborate *bureaucratic machine* will be set up to adjudicate. If the issue becomes serious, it will go to Law Lords in London to act as final arbiters.

Scottish MPs

The white paper signals a reduction in the number of Scottish MPs: "The distribution of seats in the House of Commons will be reviewed by the Parliamentary Boundary Commission. At present, special statutory provisions stipulate a minimum number of Scottish seats. The Government have decided that in the next review this requirement will not longer apply."

Funding

The Scottish parliament will be given the power to increase or decrease the basic rate of income tax by up to 3p. *Income from savings and* dividends will not be affected.

Scotland will continue for the time being to receive a bloc grant that gives Scotland higher spending per head of population than the rest of the UK. The parliament's annual running costs are estimated at between £20 and £30 million a year — about £5 per head of Scottish population.

Elections

The Scottish parliament's 129 members will be elected by the additional membership list system, a kind of PR: 73 of the members will be directly elected on a constituency basis plus 56 additional members (seven from each of the current European Parliament constituencies) allocated *to* ensure the overall result more directly reflects the share of the vote.

Europe

Ministers from the Scottish Parliament will participate in meetings of Council of Ministers and in some cases could speak for the United Kingdom. There will be a Scottish representative office in Brussels to further Scottish interests.

Site of Parliament

Not yet decided. It could be Calton Hill, designated for the Scottish Parliament at the time of the last referendum, though the renovation costs are considerable. Whatever the site, it will be in Edinburgh, not Glasgow or other towns and cities with a claim.

Leader comment, page 12

Main points

- □ Scottish Parliament to be set up in January 2000 in Edinburgh
- □ Parliament will have wide legislative powers, but Westminster will retain control over areas such as foreign affairs and defence
- □ Scottish Parliament will be able to raise income tax by up to 3p, but main funding will continue to come from bloc grant from Whitehall, which gives Scots more per head of population than English
- □ Parliament's 129 MPs will be elected by a form of PR *over fixed four-* year terms
- □ Scottish Westminster representation is almost certain to be cut from its present 72 MPs
- □ Ministers from Scottish Parliament will be able to deal directly with the European Union and *Scottish Parliament will* scrutinise EU legislation

Supporters of devolution look to Wallace in hope of another victory, 700 years on

Jemima Radliffe at the Wallace Monument commemorating the battle of 1297 . . . 'This is a great day to be a Scot' PHOTOGRAPH: JEREMY SUTTON-HIBBERT

'We have felt patronised for far too long — starting with Thatcher, no, starting with Edward I. If politicians are going to waste our money, they might as well do it in Edinburgh where we can keep an eye on them'

Lawrence Donegan tests the mood at Scotland's symbol of nationhood

ALL WAS calm at the geographical and spiritual heart of Scotland, save for the pounding, patriotic heart of Jemima ("unfortunately my late husband had an English name") Radcliffe.

"This is a great day to be a Scot," she said, cigarette ash *falling on to her black dress.* "Scotland has a different personality. For too long now we have been downtrodden by the English. Now that's going to change."

These were not exactly the sentiments expressed by Donald Dewar as he unveiled the Government's white paper on devolution at Westminster yesterday. But it is voters like the 78-year-old from East Kilbride who will provide the bedrock of support for the proposed parliament. Behind Mrs Radcliffe stood the Wallace *Monument*, a 220-foot tower perched on a volcanic rock near Stirling which celebrates William "Braveheart" Wallace and his victory over the English at the battle of Stirling Bridge on September 11, 1297.

It is a spectacular building, resplendent with history and metaphor, and one which the *world will become familiar* with in the run-up to the devolution referendum on, naturally, September 11, 1997. Will the Government enjoy as spectacular a victory now as Wallace did 700 years ago?

Joan Duff, a retired nurse from Stirling, proud Scot and a confirmed devolutionist, was typical. "We have been dictated to by Westminster for far too long, we have felt patronised for far too long — starting with Thatcher, no, starting with Edward I actually.

"If politicians are going to waste our money, they might as well do it in Edinburgh where we can keep an eye on them. We will be listened to more by a parliament which is on our own doorstep — Westminster is too far away."

Even the announcement that the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster might be cut found favour with voters.

"We have been over-represented *for years," said* Fay Black, from St Andrews. "A change in the number of Scottish MPs will make things more fair to the English."

There were more questioning voices, but only from those more beguiled by the stunning view from the top of the Wallace Monument than constitutional complexities of the United Kingdom.

"Devolution — is that the same as evolution, only in reverse?" asked Charlotte Wallace-Young. "I don't really know what it is, but it would *be fine by me as long as it* doesn't lead to hostilities between England and Scotland."

Her fellow American, Eric Newendorpe, was better informed and more enthusiastic. "It has to be helpful if it gets people to feel more in touch and more involved with their government.

"It will also help ease any strains between England and Scotland," he said.

Carl Heald provided a sole dissenting voice. "No," he said emphatically. "I'm pro the Albion and the Union Jack — unity is strength and all of that.

"It's right that people should have a little more say, a little more independence from the House of Commons, but if you starting splitting up into fragments, then you won't be as strong. If Scotland has its own parliament, then why can't the north-west of England have its own parliament?"

Mr Dewar will be delighted to know that Mr Heald is from Manchester. He won't be voting on September 11.

Will Scotland be brave or apathetic? Leading lights raise fears over turnout, extra bureaucracy, and national inferiority complex

JUSTIN CURRIE, lead singer of Del Amitri:

"*At the moment* I'm massively confused by it, and would be unsure which way to vote.

Now Labour are in with such a massive majority, it's less an issue to the Scots than it otherwise might be. But the Government is *stuck with it. Apparently,* if the vote was tomorrow, the turnout would be smaller than that for a local council election and that would be ridiculous."

SCOTT HASTINGS, international rugby player:

"I think our current law system suits us much better.

A lot of people on the street don't know the *implications of devolution* and I think it's going to end up creating more bureaucracy.

I don't think people understand the effect a Scottish parliament will have on the business community and or from an international perspective.

DON PATERSON, poet:

"It's a stepping stone on the way to independence. Over the last 1000 years Scots have sold themselves down the river, so I hope they don't screw up again.

Something weird happens to Scots in voting booths, they have this terrible inferiority complex about governing themselves — which is strange when you look at how many Scots are in the current government."

KIRSTY YOUNG, Channel 5 news presenter

"I think it's great that Scottish people are getting the chance to vote on devolution again.

I feel a bit odd not voting myself as I live in England and I was only 10 when the last one was held."

Interviews: Emily Sheffield

Dewar tipped to be First Minister

Ewen MacAskill

DONALD Dewar emerged last night as favourite to become Scotland's First Minister, the title for the leader of the proposed Scottish Parliament.

Although the 59-year-old Scottish Secretary protests to friends that he is too old and will be happy just to succeed in setting up the *parliament*, few believe him.

Mr Dewar would be seen by Tony Blair as a steadying influence in *the* parliament's crucial formative years.

Other Scots in the Cabinet, mainly Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, are mentioned.

Both seem unlikely contenders, *though Mr Cook* earlier this year was not ruling it out.

Mr Blair might regard it as *dangerous to* allow Mr Cook to take over in Scotland and run it as a left-wing quasi-republic.

Both Mr Cook and Mr Brown still see their futures at Westminster, as does the other potential candidate, the Defence Secretary George Robertson, a former *shadow* Scottish Secretary.

Road to Scottish self-government

- □ 1707: Scotland loses sovereignty. Treaty of Union sees English and Scottish Parliaments unite
- □ 1911: Home rule bill gets second reading but fails to reach statute book. Scores of similar bills follow
- □ 1928: Scottish National Party founded
- □ 1967: Winnie Ewing wins Hamilton byelection for SNP from Labour. Fears of SNP renew Labour interest in devolution
- □ *1979:* Referendum on Labour devolution plan. Scots vote 51.6 per cent in favour but majority not considered good enough by Westminster
- □ 1989: First meeting of Scottish Constitutional Convention, bringing together Labour, *Liberal* Democrats, churches and unions to draw up plan for parliament, the basis for *today's white paper*
- □ 1997: White paper published that may herald the final, successful attempt to give Scotland a form of self-government

THE DIRECT LINE MORTGAGE CHALLENGE

Question:

Is the Woolwich, Halifax or Alliance & Leicester the best place to have your mortgage?

Answer:

See below.

*Mortgage example of £80,000 repayable over 25 years (300 monthly payments).

Lender	APR (variable)	Monthly Repayments (after tax relief)	Monthly saving with Direct Line	Total Payable (gross)
WOOLWICH	8.7%	£605.30	£63.13	£191,248
HALIFAX	8.6%	£604.48	£62.31	£190,538
ALLIANCE & LEICESTER	8.7%	£604.48	£62.31	£191,318
DIRECT LINE	7.2%	£542.17	—	£169,776

- The table speaks for itself, Direct Line is the place to have your mortgage.
- A Direct Line mortgage could save you over £50* per month.
- You can borrow up to 90% of the value of your home.
- Free valuation.
- No early redemption, arrangement or mortgage indemnity fees.
- We guarantee to save you 20%† on your existing buildings insurance.
- If you transfer your mortgage without moving house Direct Line will pay your legal fees††.
- Now you know the answer, give us a call.

DIRECT LINE MORTGAGES

0181 649 9099 LONDON

0161 831 9099 MANCHESTER

0141 221 9099 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. GA90

www.directline.co.uk

A Royal Bank of Scotland company.

Aids death care worker was abuser

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

A SOCIAL worker who later died of Aids abused at least six children and teenagers in his care in Hackney, east London, an investigation by the NSPCC concluded yesterday.

No evidence was found of abuse by any other adults, however, and none of the young people involved was infected by HIV, the Aids virus.

The investigation was commissioned by Hackney council after criticism of its handling of the case of Mark Trotter, who worked for the authority from 1981 to 1993. Mr Trotter, who was openly gay, was appointed a governor of a local school.

His death in 1995 came shortly before police planned to arrest him over allegations of child sexual abuse in Liverpool, where he worked before joining Hackney.

The NSPCC was asked to seek any evidence of abuse by Mr Trotter when he worked at the Trowbridge House children's home, since closed, and when he later became a field social worker. For six months until February this year, the charity ran a 24-hour telephone helpline — widely advertised — which attracted 72 calls about him.

The investigation also involved efforts to trace 337 former residents of Trowbridge House, of whom 60 responded to letters or telephone calls and seven made allegations of abuse against Mr Trotter.

The NSPCC thinks six claims of abuse are credible. The youngest of those making these claims would have been 10 at the time. Three young people who came forward, or were traced, were considered in need of long-term therapeutic help and referred to Hackney social services.

While cautioning that it had been unable to find all the young people who might have information about Mr Trotter, the NSPCC said there was "no evidence of organised abuse or any suggestion that [he] abused together with other adults".

The charity's report has been passed to John Barratt, former chief executive of Cambridgeshire county council, who is conducting an inquiry into Hackney's response to the allegations.

Tony Elliston, Hackney's chief executive, said: "We are obviously concerned that children in Hackney's care were abused." The authority was determined to learn any lessons from the case.

Sheila Bowler after her release by the Court of Appeal yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: SIMONE SMITH

High-flying diplomat becomes US envoy

Foreign Office moves Bonn ambassador to Washington

Ian Black, Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN's new ambassador to the United States is Christopher Meyer, a former spokesman for John Major and high-flying professional diplomat whom the Government believes can build a New Labour bridge to Washington.

Mr Meyer, aged 53, and at the moment ambassador to Germany, replaces Sir John Kerr, who is returning to London in the autumn to head the Diplomatic Service. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office said Mr Meyer would be replaced in Bonn, where he has been ambassador for just five months, by Paul Lever, FCO's economic director, and a top European specialist.

Mr Meyer's name emerged as a candidate for the Washington job, Britain's most important embassy, only recently, after speculation that the Government would make a celebrity or business appointment.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, was keen to appoint a professional insider, but Downing Street passed over the favourite, political director Jeremy Greenstock.

For a diplomat, Mr Meyer has a high public profile. As head of the FCO news department under Sir Geoffrey (now Lord) Howe, he was popular with diplomatic correspondents and learned much from Mrs Thatcher's combative spokesman, Bernard Ingham, often performing a double act with him at summits.

Christopher Meyer: back to Washington as number one

Smooth but aggressive, and with a penchant for wearing power braces, Mr Meyer spent two years at Downing Street, but there were signs of strain because of deep Tory rifts over Europe.

He has served in Washington before, as number two at the embassy, and did two tours in Moscow during the cold war. He spent a sabbatical at Harvard and wrote a paper about the craft of spokesmanship, called Hacks and Pin-Striped Apparatchiks: Selling British Foreign Policy to the Press.

With the Anglo-American relationship being now in honeymoon phase — even if no longer uniquely special, Mr Meyer's insider's knowledge of the power centres in both capitals will be invaluable.

Mr Lever, also 53, is one of the top three officials in the FCO. He has served as chairman of Whitehall's Joint Intelligence Committee, and is seen by many as the architect of Britain's success at last month's Amsterdam summit. He will be a key player in the run up to next year's crucial decision on the European single currency.

● The Foreign Office is to hold an open day next month for 600 community leaders, students and careers advisers, to highlight job opportunities for women, ethnic minorities and the disabled. "Many people have no idea that the FCO is staffed by down-to-earth, unstuffy people working hard in Britain's interests," Mr Cook said.

B&Q SALE

"This Sheldon Suite is only £249 including taps!"

Hurry while stocks last.

KATE NOBLE Sales Adviser B&Q CARLISLE

SHELDON SUITE
Suite comprises white acrylic bath with front panel, 2 tap hole basin and pedestal, close-coupled toilet pan, cistern and fitting, white wooden toilet seat and gold effect bath and basin taps including wastes.
NOW £249
WAS £299

There's also £100 OFF the Sherwood Suite

SHERWOOD CORNER SUITE
In white or soft cream. Left or Right hand option available. Comprises offset corner bath with mahogany effect or antique pine effect bath panel, basin and pedestal, close-coupled cistern and toilet pan with gold effect lever, mahogany effect or antique pine effect toilet seat and gold effect bath/shower mixer, basin taps, fittings and lever.
NOW £460
WAS £560

And £100 OFF the Victorian Suite too!
(Not shown, please ask in store for details and costs.)

B&Q
YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q
Pick up a leaflet in store. Does not apply in B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots.

OPENING HOURS
Mon-Sat: Most stores 9am-8pm. Sunday: Most stores England & Wales 10am-4pm (where permitted). Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am-6pm. Certain store hours may vary, please 'phone your nearest store to confirm.
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DIY CHAIN – FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0800 600 900
Internet - http://www.diy.co.uk

Ask in store for details of offers. Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots, ask in store for details of our Price Promise. All bathrooms may not be on display in all stores but can be ordered from any B&Q subject to availability. Suites comprise items only as stated (end panels available as extra). Other tap packs available for Victorian or Sherwood Suite, ask in store for details and costs.

Woman freed pending retrial on aunt's death

Clare Longrigg

A WOMAN who has spent four years in prison for the murder of her elderly aunt was allowed to go home yesterday after the court of appeal quashed her conviction and ordered a retrial.

There were tears and applause in the courtroom as the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, ruled that the conviction was unsafe.

Sheila Bowler, a music teacher from Rye, East Sussex, was convicted of murder in July 1993 after Florence Jackson, aged 89, her late husband's aunt, had been found floating in the River Brede.

At the trial at Lewes crown court, Mrs Bowler's defence had discounted the possibility that Mrs Jackson's death could have been an accident. Care workers from the residential home where Mrs Jackson had been living had given evidence that she was senile, unable to walk far, had many falls and usually walked with the aid of a zimmer frame.

An appeal in 1995 was dismissed, but medical evidence has since surfaced that people suffering mild dementia can find the strength to walk if they are under stress or in unfamiliar surroundings.

After many members of the public wrote letters giving their experience of this phenomenon, the then Home Secretary, Michael Howard, referred the case back to the Court of Appeal in February.

This week, the court heard from geriatrics specialists that old people who seem helpless under normal circumstances can perform unexpected feats of strength.

Florence Jackson . . . found in River Brede

The appeal judges ruled that a jury should be allowed to re-examine the case in the light of evidence that Mrs Jackson's death could have been an accident.

Mrs Bowler was granted bail pending the retrial.

Friends and wellwishers waited to greet her as she came out of the court.

Mrs Bowler's daughter, Jane, aged 27, said: "I am so relieved, it's been such a strain. I'm delighted that Mum will be coming home."

Mrs Bowler hugged her son and daughter outside the court before saying: "I'm enormously relieved at the outcome of today's hearing.

"I want to thank all the hundreds of members of the public, and other friends and complete strangers who have helped me. It's great to be out — and to have this chance to prove my innocence."

Straw 'sorry' to Birmingham 6

Duncan Campbell, Crime Correspondent

THE Home Secretary has apologised to the Birmingham Six for the miscarriage of justice they suffered.

The men had complained for years that no official ever offered them an apology for their false imprisonment.

But the Six remain unhappy that Jack Straw made no firm commitment yesterday to improve their compensation terms and declined to meet them.

They said they would seek redress in Europe for what they see as the Government's failure to compensate them adequately.

Five of the men wrongly convicted for the IRA pub bombing in Birmingham in 1974, and cleared on appeal in 1991, presented a letter to Mr Straw yesterday seeking clarification of the Government's position on compensation.

It is understood that the men have received £200,000 each and have been offered further interim payments of between £50,000 and £250,000.

In a letter to one of the Six, Billy Power, Mr Straw said: "You will be pleased to know you will receive further interim payments.

"But I am afraid I think there would be no value in our meeting."

Mr Straw added: "It is a matter of great regret when there are miscarriages of justice. You wrote that you have never received a proper apology.

"I believe there has been a miscarriage of justice in your convictions. I am very sorry indeed that this should have happened."

Mr Power said: "Jack Straw's apology means very little to us. What we want is a public recognition of the facts.

"We had nothing to do with the IRA bombings. We want justice. We have suffered enough."

The letter to Mr Straw indicated that they intended to seek an award from the European courts.

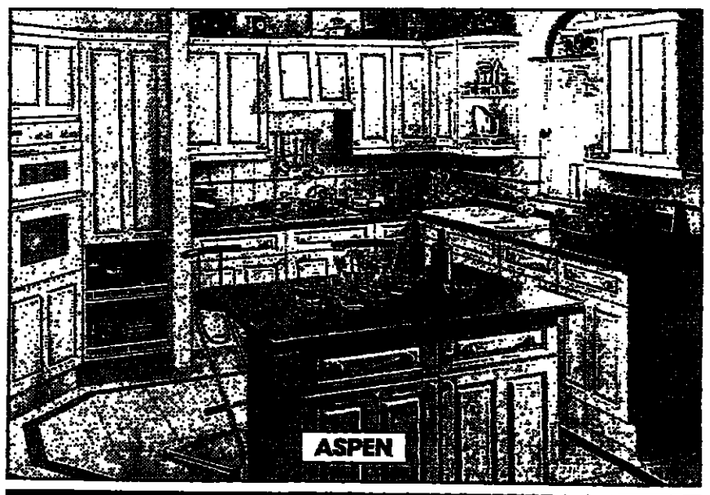
The letter stated: "We have been 23 years in litigation with the Home Office. The offer is derisory, and pours salt on open wounds. It does not begin to reflect the enormity of suffering we and our families have endured.

"Unless there is a substantial improvement in the overall offer of compensation, and serious attempts to settle our claim quickly, we intend to go for a judicial review and take our case to Europe."

B&Q SALE

"There's 33% OFF the Grasmere, Aston, Aspen, Bordeaux, Chambray and Wentworth kitchen units."

WESLEY WOLTMAN Sales Adviser B&Q EXETER



HOMARK Dual Zone Electric Oven Pack
WAS £789.95 £699 per pack

Pack includes dual zone electric oven, standard hood and gas hob. Available in brown or white.

SAVE £90

And there are more offers on appliances in store!

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q
Pick up a leaflet in store. Does not apply in B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots.

OPENING HOURS
Mon-Sat: Most stores 9am-8pm. Sundays: Most stores England & Wales 10am-4pm (where permitted). Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am-6pm. Certain store hours may vary, please 'phone your nearest store to confirm.
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DIY CHAIN – FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0800 600 900
Internet - http://www.diy.co.uk

B&Q
YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

Ask in store for details of all offers. Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots, ask in store for details of our price promise. All kitchens may not be on display in all stores and appliances may not be in stock in all stores, but kitchens and appliances can be ordered from any B&Q. Please 'phone to check before travelling. All kitchen units are self-assembly.

هكذا من الأصل

MP hits high moral note over phantom illness of the opera

Dan Glaister on a comedy by committee starring, among others, three heads of the Royal Opera House, and based on a libretto of weighty one-liners

MEDICAL experts were baffled yesterday by the emergence of a previously unknown illness, which may become known as *operatis stressedouttum*.

Genista McIntosh, the general director of the Royal Opera House who left the post citing ill-health after only 18 weeks at Covent Garden, clarified the nature of her illness before a Commons select committe yesterday. Facing questioning from the National Heritage committee chairman, Gerald Kaufman, she said that while she had not actually been ill, it was very probable that had she continued in the position, she would have become ill.

"I left because I was extremely unhappy in the job," she told the committee. "There is no doubt that being extremely unhappy causes one to be distressed and causes stress. I did believe that had I continued in my job I might well have become unwell."

But Mr Kaufman was unimpressed by the lady's phantom illness, declaring: "You've utterly blown this cover story about ill-health."

Before the committee had got under way, Mr Kaufman had a clarification of his own. "We are the National Heritage committee although there is no longer a National Heritage Department," he intoned to its members. "I've written to the Leader of the House asking her to change the name to the same name as the department. That may dispel some of the complexities."

The stellar cast gathered for the morning's comic opera included Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council, Sir Jeremy Isaacs, former general director of the Opera House, Ms McIntosh and Keith Cooper, the opera's head of corporate affairs.

The first act was provided by Lord Gowrie, sporting black bow-tie and red polka dot handkerchief. Before he started, Mr Kaufman reminded him to speak up. "Anyone whose total parliamentary career is spent in the Lords is used to speaking loudly," responded the lord. The banter came to an end with the arrival of ferret-like former journalist Michael Fabricant. "It does seem to me there is rather more drama backstage than onstage at the Royal Opera House," he observed.

The drama unfolded for Lord Gowrie in May, when he discovered that, in the words of Mr Kaufman, the secretary general of the Arts Council, Mary Allen, "was raided" by Opera House chairman Lord Chadlington to replace Ms McIntosh. "I was," said Lord Gowrie, "to use a phrase made famous by Mr Patten, gobsmacked." He was told of the appointment, he said, "very, very late in the day".

With Lord Gowrie gobsmacked, and Ms McIntosh ill, it was the turn of Sir Jeremy to put his spin on the recent troubles affecting the House. But he chose to echo a concern voiced by Ms McIntosh: would the new Opera House being built with £78 million of taxpayers' money be a going concern, or would it need to be bailed out by corporate sponsors or increased subsidy?

"You cannot have the people's opera unless people are prepared to pay for it," said Sir Jeremy, who left the job in December to make way for Ms McIntosh. "The great question is: where will the funds come from to enable the House to function? If they come from the private sectors, those tendencies that have given cause for concern will be strengthened."

The message for Culture Secretary Chris Smith seemed clear: if you want the inclusivity you have asked for, to counter the exclusivity for which the Opera House has been so criticised, you will have to pay for it.

Garden of delights

- □ July 1995: Royal Opera House awarded £78 million from the National Lottery for redevelopment of Victorian theatre
- □ June 1996: After failing to secure a single venue for the programme during the two-year closure, the House announces touring plans
- □ September 1996: Peter Gummer, now Lord Chadlington, former head of Arts Council's lottery panel, appointed Opera chairman
- □ January 1997: Genista McIntosh takes over as general director
- □ May 1997: McIntosh resigns on health grounds, and is immediately replaced by Mary Allen, secretary general of the Arts Council
- □ June 1997: Arts Council announces inquiry into relationship between itself and Opera House
- □ June 1997: Culture Secretary Chris Smith warns Opera House to reduce ticket prices or face a reduction in subsidy
- □ July 1997: Covent Garden closes for two-year redevelopment

Move to stave off benefits 'crisis'

Ministers vow to protect 500,000 people who could face eviction

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MINISTERS are to take emergency action to protect more than 500,000 elderly and vulnerable people who face bills of up to £70 a week and possible eviction from their homes after a High Court ruling yesterday.

Harriet Harman, Social Security Secretary, said the Government would introduce measures immediately to avert a "potential crisis" in community care.

The issue involves growing use of housing benefit to meet costs above and beyond accommodation, paying for help for elderly people in sheltered flats and disabled or mentally ill people in supported housing.

Last year the Conservative government dropped plans — which had provoked a storm of protest — to stop use of the benefit to pay for "personal needs", but it ordered a long-term review.

Yesterday, with the review continuing, Mr Justice Laws ruled that the benefit should pay only for services "such as may tend to preserve the condition of the accommodation's fabric". It should not meet "general social provision for the protection of disadvantaged people in their homes".

This judgment would, in effect, introduce the changes the last government had intended and expose up to 700,000 people to personal charges for services currently paid for by benefit.

Within hours of the ruling, however, the Government promised a compensation fund to reimburse providers of supported accommodation where housing benefit payments for tenants were cut.

Keith Bradley, junior social security minister, said: "We need to ensure there is not chaos as a result of the court judgment and that current levels of provision for vulnerable people are protected."

Estimates of the cost of the compensation are as high as £500 million a year. But the scheme will apply only to existing tenants. Those who enter serviced accommodation are likely to have to seek help from already stretched local authority community care budgets.

Mr Bradley, who said that the court ruling endorsed the Department of Social Security's interpretation of benefit regulations, agreed that the review would need to establish a new system.

The ruling came in respect of four applications by housing providers seeking judicial review of decisions by housing benefit review boards to limit benefit payments for services.

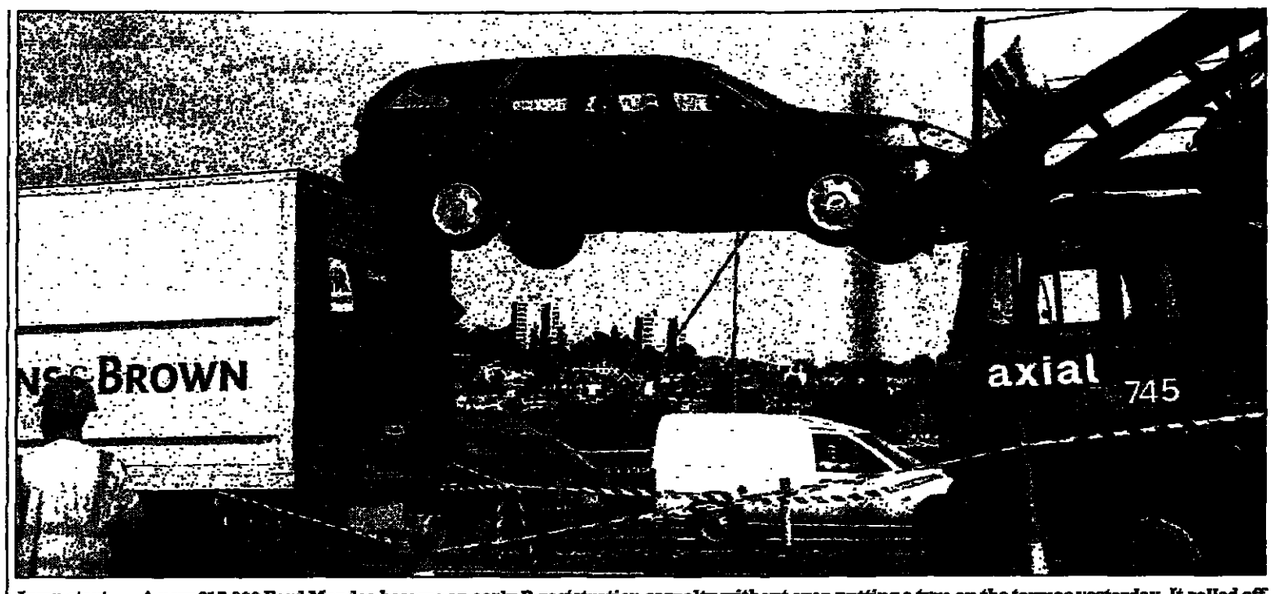
One case cited was that of a man in Sutton, south London, whose rent of £237 a week included almost £82 for counselling and support services provided by a drink crisis centre.

Another concerned a West Glamorgan man with a severe learning disability whose weekly rent of £259 included £37 for support services provided by his landlady.

Thirty cases in Hertfordshire included a man with learning disability paying a "care and counselling" charge of more than £64.

Housing associations and other landlords of supported accommodation say such charges — typically £20 a week in sheltered flats and £40 in supported housing — pay for services that help to keep vulnerable people out of residential care.

However, Mr Justice Laws said housing benefit could not take account of "problems about whether the tenant might lose the property, make a mess of it or aggravate his neighbours".



Jump start . . . A new £15,000 Ford Mondeo became an early R-registration casualty without even putting a tyre on the tarmac yesterday. It rolled off its transporter and became balanced on top of a lorry after an accident on the M5 at Bristol

'Cash for questions' ex-MPs offer apologies after criticism by Downey

David Hencke, Westminster Correspondent

FOUR former Conservative MPs at the centre of the "cash for questions" scandal have apologised for their conduct following severe criticism by Sir Gordon Downey, the Commissioner for Parliamentary Standards.

The apologies — from ex-minister Tim Smith, former whip Michael Brown, and two backbenchers, Sir Michael Grylls and Sir Andrew Bowden — contrast starkly with the 37-page submission from the ex-minister Neil Hamilton, who attacks Sir Gordon's findings against him.

The two ex-ministers were found guilty by Sir Gordon of taking up to £25,000 each in cash in brown envelopes from Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods. Sir Andrew was found to have accepted £5,319 towards his election campaign, and Michael Brown and Sir Michael Grylls were found to have taken undeclared commissions from other companies through the lobbyist Ian Greer.

Tim Smith, former MP for Beaconsfield, offers "sincere apologies for the fact ... my conduct fell below the standards expected of MPs".

Sir Andrew apologises for not declaring his election expenses, but says he did not know the money had come from Mr Al Fayed.

The least contrite is Sir Michael Grylls, who stood down from Surrey North West at the election. He still maintains he unintentionally misled a parliamentary committee about his payments from Mr Greer.

Complaints from Mr Mohamed Al Fayed, The Guardian and others against 25 members and former members: Memoranda of Evidence. The Stationery Office, £6.50.

Juliette Binoche and Ralph Fiennes in the 1992 screen version of Emily Brontë's classic, published in 1847

Merle Oberon and Laurence Olivier as the lovers in the 1939 Hollywood adaptation

Wuthering Heights film may go west

TV company is accused of snub, reports Geoffrey Gibbs

WANTED: 16th or 17th century stone manor house with mullioned windows in moorland setting remote from other properties. House must have a stern and moody feel.

Brontë purists and proud Yorkshire folk will be dismayed. When a planned television version of Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë's classic, hits the screens, the main location for the tragic love story of Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw could be in Exmoor or Dorset rather than on the bleak Yorkshire moors that inspired the author.

Searches for a suitable location in the north have failed. So the film makers have asked a location consultant in Bath to scour the South-west for a manor house or large farmhouse in an appropriately remote and hilly setting.

Sarah Eastel, head of the Bath Filmworks consultancy, said the production company had looked hard in Yorkshire for the house it wanted, but without success.

"Now they are thinking there may be somewhere on Exmoor that has a wild setting like the Yorkshire moors." Her searches had produced possible sites on the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset.

Although general landscape filming for the LWT production will take place in Yorkshire, news that an alien house will be used has upset some Brontë lovers. Mike Hill, director of the Brontë Parsonage Museum, in Haworth, West Yorkshire, said the first priority should be to ensure the setting was as authentic as possible. A local councillor derided the idea of an Exmoor location as "artificial and twee".

But for Robert Barnard, chairman of the Brontë Society, the main issue was the quality of the script and whether the cast would be up to the task of portraying the central characters in Brontë's only novel, published in 1847, a year before her death.

"You need someone very, very good as Heathcliff, a touch of the James Mason or the young Marlon Brando.

"But it's rather odd that they couldn't find a suitable location. There are so many remote, deserted farmhouses on the moors. And the property that is believed to have inspired Thrushcross Grange — the other home in the novel — is on the market."

LWT, which hopes to start filming in September but has not begun casting, said it would strive to make the film as authentic as possible.

Flashback

1920: Silent version filmed at Haworth
1939: Starring Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon. Filmed in Hollywood with specially imported heather
1953: Luis Bunuel's Abismos de Pasion, filmed in Mexico
1970: Starring Timothy Dalton and Anna Calder-Marshall
1992: Starring Ralph Fiennes and Juliette Binoche, filmed in North Yorkshire

Other interpretations include Kate Bush; Monty Python's The Semaphore Version of Wuthering Heights; and the Cliff Richard musical, Heathcliff

Aids drugs 'may encourage unsafe sex'

Chris Mihill, Medical Correspondent

A MISTAKEN impression that the latest range of Aids drugs can cure the disease could lead people believe that they no longer need to protect themselves against HIV, Aids specialists warned yesterday.

A combination of drugs including AZT and protease inhibitors has dramatically improved the health of people with Aids and led to the closure of some Aids wards.

A conference in London, organised by the National Aids Manual, heard that the drugs' success meant people needed reminding that they were not a cure, and the safe-sex message could not be abandoned.

In America and Australia it is reported that rates of sexually transmitted diseases among gay men are increasing. Over-confidence about the new treatments is given as one of the reasons.

Some American doctors have suggested that the drugs may so reduce the virus in the body that sufferers are no longer infectious, although this remains to be proved. "There could be problems if people read this as saying they are not infectious," said Edward King, an author of the National Aids Manual on treatments and prevention.

He said the drugs, which can cost up to £10,000 a year, were being offered to health staff who sustained needle stick injuries when treating HIV positive patients.

There was pressure to make such treatment available in cases where a condom broke during sex between an infected and uninfected person, but it was hard to know where to draw the line. "There is concern about the cost if people get the impression that these drugs are a morning-after pill for HIV. They are not. They have to be taken for at least a month, they are unpleasant and they are not 100 per cent successful."

Mr King said incorrect use of the drugs would create resistant strains of the virus which could be passed on to other people, rendering the treatment useless.

Dr Brian Gazzard of the Chelsea and Westminister Hospital, London, said it was a misperception that the drugs were expensive. Compared with treatments such as kidney dialysis or heart surgery, they were one of the cheapest life-saving options that medicine could offer.

"Wards have closed because we don't need the beds. In America hospices have closed because people are not dying. In terms of saving a year of life these drugs are dirt cheap. But [they] are not a cure."

Keith Alcorn, editor of the manual, said it was a dangerous false economy for health authorities to take money from Aids prevention and education budgets to pay for drugs, as many were now doing. There were still 1,000 new infections every year, and treatment over five years might cost £50,000.

Instead of campaigns aimed at the general public, which did little good, education efforts should be focused on groups most at risk, he said.

Cook reads Bosnia riot act

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

ROBIN COOK, Britain's Foreign Secretary, is to read the riot act to Bosnian leaders and warn them to move faster to implement the Dayton peace agreement or face a withdrawal of international aid.

Braced for protests from Serb leaders against the recent British army operation to capture war criminals, Mr Cook will visit the Bosnian capital Sarajevo and the northern Serb stronghold of Banja Luka next week to make it clear he is determined to see progress.

"It is up to the leaders of Bosnia's three communities to ensure a safe and secure future for their people," the Foreign Secretary said yesterday. "So I expect some frank exchanges — particularly on the need for reintegration within the Dayton framework, but also on war criminals, corruption and media freedom."

Mr Cook is seeing the Bosnian Serb president, Biljana Plavsic, who is locked in a bitter power struggle with her predecessor, Radovan Karadzic, indicted as a war criminal but still active behind the scenes and suspected of orchestrating recent attacks on Nato forces.

Ms Plavsic was elected president of the Bosnian Serb entity last September in a vote which put post-war government structures in place under Dayton, the accords that ended the three-and-a-half years of war.

"Plavsic is no angel but she has increasingly seen that it is in the interest of the people who support her that Dayton should be implemented," a senior British official said. "Mr Cook will support politicians who want to see Dayton implemented and put pressure on those who do not."

> 'Plavsic is no angel but she sees it's in Serbian interest to implement Dayton'

Diplomats say Britain's weight in Bosnia has been boosted by the SAS operation in Prijedor two weeks ago, in which one indicted war criminal was killed resisting arrest and a second one sent for trial at The Hague tribunal.

"The Serbs will want to make a noise about that while he's there," the official said. "They didn't enjoy Prijedor — that was part of the point. The British have shown in recent days that they are prepared to act as well as talk."

In the latest of a series of incidents, a Dutch soldier was wounded yesterday when a Bosnian Serb threw a hand grenade at peacekeepers in Serb-controlled territory.

Britain, in line with Nato policy, is urging the Bosnians to increase inter-entity military co-operation, speed refugee return, appoint ambassadors and take other steps to allow the country to function as a single state. Anxiety is mounting because of Washington's insistence that its forces will leave next summer.

On Wednesday in Brussels, international donors made it clear that Serbs will be denied aid because of their failure to surrender war criminals. But some may be released to bolster Ms Plavsic.

Mr Cook also plans to give interviews to free radio stations as part of a campaign to weaken the nationalist stranglehold on the Serbian media in both Bosnia and Serbia.

Freedom of the press was a key demand in huge protests by the opposition Zajedno (Together) coalition in Serbia last winter, which seriously challenged the rule of President Slobodan Milosevic.

● A man has turned himself in to United Nations police, confessing that he may have committed war crimes in Bosnia and offering evidence against others, sources said yesterday. The suspect, who was not named, was interviewed informally early in the week and was to be interviewed in Sarajevo by investigators from the The Hague.

Italy weeps over US killer's death

John Hooper in Rome

FLAGS flew at half-mast in the Sicilian capital of Palermo yesterday as Italian politicians of all persuasions voiced outrage at the execution late on Wednesday of an American thief and killer.

The death by lethal injection of Joseph O'Dell put an end to one of the most remarkable dramas to emerge from cyberspace. For more than a year, Italians, who first learnt of his case on the Internet, have been fascinated and appalled by the story of a man whose fate stirred far less interest in his native US.

Neither the New York Times nor the Los Angeles Times even recorded his death yesterday. Since it occurred nearby, the Washington Post thought it worth a mention in its local "Metro" section.

Yet 4,500 miles away in a country with which O'Dell had no formal connection, his execution was the front-page lead in all but one of the national dailies.

Hundreds of Italians kept vigil in a Rome square till after 3am, when it was announced that a final appeal for clemency had failed. Many burst into tears when, on a live television link-up from Virginia, they heard a spokesman for Governor George Allen say: "The execution was completed at 9.16[pm]."

O'Dell, who had a long criminal record, was convicted of the 1985 abduction, rape and murder of a 44-year-old secretary. As the campaign for his reprieve gathered momentum, the mayor of Palermo, Leoluca Orlando, made him an honorary citizen.

Yesterday, as Mr Orlando ordered flags on official buildings to be lowered for 24 hours, the city's archbishop revealed he had spent all night in prayer for the American. One of O'Dell's dying wishes was to be buried in Sicily, and a Palermo funeral director has volunteered to meet the cost of bringing his body from Rome.

It is not yet clear whether the US authorities will allow the body to be taken abroad, nor who will bear the cost of transporting it across the Atlantic. But in the present climate, it should not be too difficult to find a donor.

During his last day, O'Dell, aged 55, married his volunteer paralegal, Lori Urs, aged 41, in a midday ceremony at the Greenville Correction Centre.

An Italian Green MP called on his compatriots to boycott produce from Virginia.

At the other end of the political spectrum, an MP from the formerly neo-fascist-led National Alliance likened President Bill Clinton to Pontius Pilate for ignoring pleas from the Pope and from the Italian government.

Just why the case has made such an impact in Italy is not easy to fathom. The doubts surrounding his guilt were relatively slight. Though O'Dell proclaimed his innocence to the end, blood found on his jacket was, by odds of 166,000 to one, that of his alleged victim.

But his plight struck a chord in a society that abhors capital punishment more, perhaps, than any other in Europe. Italy's equivalent of the Lord Chancellor's Office is the ministry of justice *and clemency*. There is no death penalty in civilian criminal cases and, in large part because of the controversy stirred up by the O'Dell affair, there are moves afoot in parliament to abolish it in wartime.

The Roman Catholic emphasis on grace and redemption may have something to do with it. It is also the case that the frivolity and cynicism of which Italians make such play co-exists with a high degree of tolerance, and with a genuine belief that human beings can be made better by example. In this respect, at least, they may have got the O'Dell case right.

Thanking them for an earlier reprieve, the condemned man said in a telephone interview with Italian state radio that he wanted to thank "the wonderful people in Italy who showed such compassion and love". He added: "It's something I'm not used to seeing."

Italians gather for a vigil in Rome last night as the convicted killer and rapist Joseph O'Dell was about to be executed in Virginia PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL HANNA

Americans pacified by payoff for Cuban deal

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE US government and the European Commission appeared to be shying away from an unwelcome confrontation yesterday over the controversial American Helms-Burton law, which seeks to penalise companies trading with Cuba, after an Italian telecommunications company agreed to pay compensation for using a network on the island.

In the biggest row to be raised by Helms-Burton so far, Stet International has voluntarily agreed to pay a one-off, undisclosed amount to the US company ITT for using equipment apparently confiscated nearly 40 years ago after the Cuban revolution.

The US state department's announcement that it would not take "adverse action" against Stet or its executives was being seen in Brussels as the latest indication of the Clinton administration's unwillingness to get bogged down in the Helms-Burton law. The legislation has been fiercely opposed by the EU and other key US trading partners including Canada.

The state department said: "The settlement sends a clear signal to foreign companies in Cuba using confiscated US property that they will either have to reach agreement with US national claimants or face visa denial or exclusion sanctions."

ITT set up and ran the Cuban telephone system before the revolution in 1959.Stet's agreement to use ITT's network and cables is believed to be valid for 10 years.

The Helms-Burton law, proposed by the conservative senator Jesse Helms and a colleague, has been a thorn in the side of President Clinton since it imposes penalties on companies from outside countries which trade with Cuba or deal in the assets its regime has appropriated.

> 'The price of doing business in Castro's tropical gulag has gone up'

The legislation enables companies and individuals to be sued for compensation over lost assets in the US courts and provides for executives and shareholders of such companies to be denied visas to the US.

President Clinton has postponed implementing the legislation as officials concede privately it is unworkable and counter-productive.

In retaliation, Brussels is allowing companies penalised in the US to sue for counter-compensation through the European courts.

Stet is the third company to be targeted by the US over trade with Cuba. The Canadian mining group Sherritt International has been banned, and the Mexican telecommunications firm Grupo Domus has withdrawn from its shared involvement in the Cuban project with Stet.

After earlier attacking the administration by saying that the Stet/ITT agreement was no justification for failing to enforce the law, Senator Helms appeared to be bowing to the inevitable yesterday. He said: "This deal should serve as a warning to anyone considering investing in Cuba that the price of doing business in Castro's tropical gulag has gone up."

In Brussels, Stet's agreement was seen as an acceptable price for gaining profitable access to the underdeveloped Cuban market.

A senior Commission official said: "Stet appears to have paid little more than lip service to Helms-Burton and found itself a convenient and clever way of getting off the hook. This is the most prominently exposed company and the case against it has fizzled out."

Peter Guilford, spokesman for the European trade commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, said: "Our policy is to press for democratic change in Cuba by encouraging trade. It is clear the Americans know Helms-Burton to be unenforceable, toothless, and so it is no suprise they are happy to settle the matter."

'Eye-to eye' encounter marks return of the yeti

Ian Traynor in Bonn

BOASTING of close encounters of the third kind on the top of the world, the Italo-Austrian adventurer and climber, Reinhold Messner, swore yesterday that the yeti, the legendary Abominable Snowman, was alive and well in the Himalayas.

"I have found the yeti. We stood eye-to-eye to one another," said Mr Messner, aged 52, who was the first man to climb Everest without oxygen and whose 70 expeditions have included the North and South Poles.

On returning from Pakistan after his latest trek, he told the Austrian weekly magazine, News, that he had recently come across three yetis.

He has made previous claims in the past 13 years, but was unable to produce evidence. This time he has pictures, he told News magazine in an interview published yesterday.

"The yeti is about 7ft 4in, has a pale coat, is a nocturnal creature, and eats yaks. The yeti ... only becomes aggressive and dangerous if it feels threatened."

Mr Messner, who lives in a castle in the north Italian Alps, said he was preparing a book on the yeti and would not release his pictures until it is published in about two years.

Whalers sail friendlier seas

Walter Gibbs in Oslo

OLAV Olavsen fired his harpoon 18 times and caught 17 minke whales in the Barents Sea a few weeks ago. Each one weighed about two tons and yielded a third of that in dark, purplish meat.

Mr Olavsen was pleased not just because he reached his catch limit in only seven days at sea, but also because Norwegian whalers may be on the verge of international acceptance.

With the 1997 season almost over and not a protester in sight, the whalers have enjoyed their most productive hunt since returning to sea five years ago in defiance of the international ban on commercial whaling.

"A few years ago we were considered barbaric criminals," said Mr Olavsen, aged 59, whose 70-foot vessel was scuttled by American protesters in 1992. "But I think the worst of the protest storm has passed. Within three years, we'll be exporting again."

Although Japan conducts a limited hunt for what it calls research purposes and aboriginal groups in several countries hunt for subsistence, only Norway has openly resumed commercial whaling since the International Whaling Commission banned it in 1986.

The country's strategy of resisting world condemnation while gradually increasing its self-imposed quota from 296 minke whales in 1993 to 580 this year seems to be working.

Most delegates to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species supported a Norwegian proposal to allow limited trade in minke whale products. The measure failed to pass because it did not win a two-thirds majority, but 57 countries voted for it and 51 against.

"It is the first time there has been a vote in Norway's favour, which people regard as very significant," said Ray Gambell, a British whale biologist, and the International Whaling Commission's executive secretary.

The organisation was established in 1946 to promote rational whaling practices, not necessarily to ban them, Mr Gambell said. Norway's momentum could carry over to the commission's meeting later this year.

"The pro-whaling side has put forward a strong and arguable case for a resumption of commercial whaling, with all kinds of safeguards built in to meet the arguments of those governments that have been delaying," Mr Gambell said.

Mr Olavsen is counting on it. "We are committed to hunting on a scientific basis," he said. "It is nice to know that that is starting to sink in." — New York Times.

World news in brief

Opposition jet kills four in Kabul

AN OPPOSITION jet dropped a large bomb on a hotel in the centre of the Afghan capital, Kabul, yesterday, killing at least four people, hospital officials said. Three people were injured in the bombing of the Ariana hotel, they said.

With the opposition forces closing in, at least 20 international aid workers began evacuating Kabul. The Agency Co-ordinating Body for Afghan Relief said all non-essential staff were heading in convoys by road for Pakistan.

At midday yesterday, opposition forces pounded the hills around Kabul with rocket fire. Eyewitnesses said several bombs hit Taliban positions north of the city. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The Taliban army, which controls about two-thirds of the country, is fighting a northern-based alliance led by the former military chief, Ahmed Shah Massood, and the Uzbek warrior Malik Pahlawan. — *AP, Kabul*

Algerian rebel leader killed

ALGERIAN security forces have killed the leader of Algeria's most violent Muslim militant group, supporters of the group said yesterday.

Antar Zouabri, the 26-year-old chief of the Armed Islamic Group, and several of his followers had been trapped in an old Roman tunnel near the town of Tipaza, about 62 miles east of Algiers, supporters and news reports said.

The death was also reported by France Info radio, but it could not be confirmed. It was not clear when Zouabri was killed.

The Armed Islamic Group is the most violent faction of Muslim militants who have been waging a five-year insurgency against the military-backed government. — *Reuter, Algiers.*

Belgian police bungle search

BELGIAN police said yesterday they had launched a search for a 17-year-old girl who has been missing for nearly a month, fuelling criticism of the police in the Belgian media.

The slow response to the family's appeals for help after Lamya Zouboudi disappeared on June 28 has prompted comparisons with the failings of the hunt for Loubna Benaissa. Loubna, aged eight, went missing in 1992 and was found dead last March in a Brussels garage which police had already searched.

Her body was the fifth to be found in seven months in a paedophile scandal that is still rocking Belgium and has triggered wide-ranging reforms of the police and justice system.

A parliamentary committee issued a report in April listing bungling and failures by police and magistrates. This week Belgian ecological parties called on the government to resign over the slow response to the scandals. — *Reuter, Brussels.*

Nazis on Holocaust list

THE list of almost 2,000 dormant Holocaust-era Swiss bank accounts may include the names of key Nazi figures and a man who helped the Third Reich loot the art treasures of Europe, Jewish groups said this week.

The Los Angeles-based Wiesenthal Centre sent a letter to the Swiss Bankers Association saying that six names might be members of Hitler's Nazi elite, including an aide to mass murderer Adolf Eichmann. The World Jewish Congress in New York expressed concern that the list included a Dr Hans Wendland — also the name of a notorious dealer in looted Nazi art during the war.

Jewish leaders praised Swiss banks for breaking their code of secrecy and publishing a list of 1,840 dormant accounts worth about $42 million without interest. — *Reuter, Los Angeles.*

Cuban salsa star dies

ONE OF Cuba's best known salsa musicians, Elio Reve Matos, who had developed his own brand of rhythm known as *charangon*, was killed in a road accident, his family said yesterday.

Reve, who was the director of his own orchestra called Elio Reve y Su Charangon, was 66. He was an accomplished percussionist and played the *palla* drums.

His son, Elio Reve Duvergel, said the accident occurred on Wednesday night in Matanzas province while Reve was travelling to Villa Clara to play in a carnival. — *Reuter, Havana.*

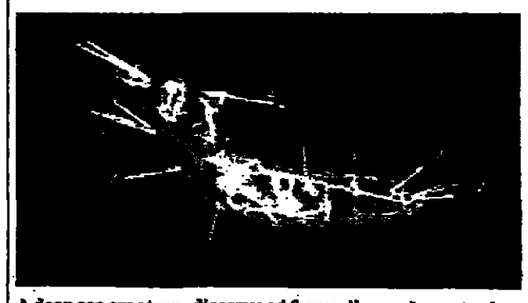
Stripper to wed naked

TAIWAN'S stripper politician Hsu Shao-tan said yesterday she would wed in October and planned nude nuptials outdoors, with tickets on sale to the public.

"I feel if a nation can appreciate and comfortably face the art of nudity, it will be a more open, happier and healthier nation," Ms Hsu said. She and her fiance plan to dress as Adam and Eve.

Ms Hsu shot to fame as a candidate in parliamentary elections with stunts such as bursting naked through a flag of the Nationalist Party. She now hosts a radio show. — *Reuter, Taipei.*

Worm wriggles into limelight



A deep sea creature, discovered four miles underwater in the Pacific, makes its first appearance on camera. Japanese scientists said yesterday that a remote-controlled Japanese submersible was studying sea life at unprecedented depths.
The new species is a transparent, worm-like creature the size of a cigarette butt, which moves along by flapping bristles that look like shimmering fibre-optic cables. Called a polychaete, it appears to be related to the sand worms fishermen often use as bait.

Greeks angry at animal ban

A EUROPEAN UNION decision to ban the sale of brains and other animal parts has infuriated many Greeks for whom they are a traditional delicacy. Many holiday meals are built around dishes from innards, such as the Easter brew, *magiritsa*, intended to be the first meat after the 40-day Lenten fast.

Other delicacies include lambs' heads, a spleen hot dog called *splinandero* and *kokoresti* — giant intestine-wrapped collection of sheep organs sometimes flavoured with diced lung.

"Greece without *splinandero* cannot be," said a tavern owner, Vassilis Simmentis.

Greece's agriculture minister, Stephanos Tzoumakas, said that the EU was running roughshod over a sensitive area. "You can't treat all the countries the same way," he said.

The ban was imposed to counter the risk of mad cow disease. It applies to the sale of brains, eyes and spinal cords of cattle, sheep and goats if the animals are more than a year old. — *AP, Athens.*

the week
With specialist news, profiles and the latest developments
Read the week
The Guardian

هكذا من الأصل

Big hole in good fence-building

Julian Borger at Israel's Tziporen military base in south Lebanon reports on growing tension as troops prepare for fresh Hizbullah attacks

CORPORAL Moshe's big moment is coming and he can hardly wait. His platoon arrived on the Israel-Lebanon border a fortnight ago and has yet to venture forth from the mine-ringed gravel-buttressed army base which is his home for the next few months.

But in a few more weeks, the platoon will be patrolling the parched Lebanese hills which roll away beneath him. The 18-year-old from an industrial suburb of Tel Aviv is itching to come face to face with Hizbullah (the Shi'ite Party of God).

"That's why I joined this corps — to see some action, to defend my country and to fight terrorists," said the soldier, whose English has the American military twang of a hundred Vietnam movies.

Corp Moshe is more than likely to see his wish granted. By the Middle East's complex chain of cause-and-effect, a vote on Wednesday in Israel's Knesset is expected to result in more Hizbullah attacks inside the nine-mile "security zone" established by Israel when it withdrew most of its forces from Lebanon in 1985. Corp Moshe's unit, the Galilee division, will be expected to cushion the blow.

The Knesset voted on Wednesday for a bill which will make it harder for any Israeli government to hand back Syria the Golan Heights, which the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) captured in 1967. Syria strongly condemned the vote yesterday. The Damascus newspaper Al-Thawra called it "dangerous and provocative", part of Israel's "open-ended war on peace".

Israeli defence officials believe the price for the Knesset vote may soon be paid in south Lebanon. Although Hizbullah is an Iranian-backed movement of Lebanese Shi'ite Muslims dedicated to driving the IDF out of the country, the Israelis think that Syria — the dominant power in Lebanon — controls its arms supply and therefore influences the movement's operations.

"Hizbullah is a bargaining chip they [the Syrians] are trying to keep alive. It's a way of bleeding us, in order to gain ground on the Golan Heights," said Uri Lubrani, the Israel defence ministry's co-ordinator for south Lebanon.

Five soldiers from the South Lebanon Army — Israel's local allies in the border guerrilla war — were injured yesterday by two car bombs near the Lebanese town of Jezzine, and in recent weeks there has been a spate of rocket attacks on IDF positions such as Tziporen. Israeli return fire has killed several local villagers.

Hizbullah's Katyusha rockets are grossly inaccurate. To inflict serious casualties on the IDF and weaken the Israeli public's resolve to stay in Lebanon, Hizbullah has to infiltrate the security zone and launch direct attacks. Israeli intelligence ranks Hizbullah operations in four levels.

- Level 1: long-distance rocketing or mortaring from outside the zone;
- Level 2: small attacks inside the zone;
- Level 3: more substantial attacks using car-bombs and booby-traps;
- Level 4: Heavy rocketing of the border or an all-out attack with the aim of capturing and temporarily holding an IDF position.

Most of the recent fighting has been level 1, and so — in IDF eyes — within the acceptable boundaries of containment (12 Israelis have been killed so far this year). The Knesset vote could change that, said one security official yesterday.

One of the officers charged with keeping Hizbullah out of the security zone is the Galilee Division's deputy commander, Colonel David "Dudi".

Col Dudi (IDF regulations prohibit giving his full name) has developed a cautious respect for Hizbullah from his years on the border. Unlike the desk officers in Tel Aviv, he refers to them as "guerrillas" rather than "terrorists", and concedes they are "good guerrilla fighters".

The colonel, an assault rifle slung around his shoulder, climbed on to the ramparts of the Tziperon base to explain his task. Unlike the Palestinians, whom the IDF fought in the same hills in the 1970s, he pointed out that Hizbullah is operating among its own people. He acknowledged that his guerrilla opponents were honouring a year-old "rules-of-the-game" agreement, by which both sides agreed to avoid civilian casualties.

He pointed to the hilltop village of Houla, just beyond the security zone three miles away, where he believes Hizbullah has agents, and then to the yellow-brown hills beyond where he says the guerrillas have their bases.

"What we have to do is cut the link between Hizbullah and the local people," he said.

An important feature in this hearts-and-minds campaign is 20 miles to the north near the town of Metulla, where the Israelis operate a crossing-point called The Good Fence.

Every day a few thousand Lebanese workers are allowed across to work in Israeli factories and farms for about £400 a month, about three times average south Lebanon incomes.

Most of the workers are Christians, with some Druze and Shi'ites among them. They rush in and out of buses on either side of the crossing, saying nothing and stopping only to buy ice-cream from a cluster of Israeli stalls.

A Good Fence T-Shirt on sale for 20 shekels (about £3) portrays the crossed flags of Israel and Lebanon and the cheerful but confusing slogan: "Better a close neighbour than a distant brother". There are no takers, except a few Israeli reservists carrying machine guns.

It is hard to disguise the fact that there are no neighbours or brothers here — just guerrillas, troops and the people wedged in between.

Peru turns on tough Fujimori

Calvin Sims in Lima reports on the political crackdown that marred the president's hostage triumph

THREE months ago, President Alberto Fujimori of Peru was riding high on a wave of popularity driven by the daring rescue of hostages held by the leftwing Tupac Amaru guerrillas at the Japanese diplomatic residence in Lima.

Peruvians and foreign governments praised Mr Fujimori for carrying out the raid with so few casualties among the hostages and rescuers — a feat he called a "victory for democracy".

But after a string of blatant attacks against the judiciary, the press and critics, Mr Fujimori has few supporters. His approval rating is at an all-time low, five members of his cabinet have resigned and thousands of people are protesting in the streets.

Revelling in the success of the hostage raid, Mr Fujimori's government has undertaken a repressive campaign to remove any obstacle to his winning a third term.

His administration engineered the dismissal of three supreme court justices who ruled that it was unconstitutional for him to stand for president again. It also tapped the telephones of prominent citizens and journalists and tried to shut down the television station that exposed illegal wiretaps.

While Mr Fujimori's critics predicted he would use the hostage rescue to advance his political agenda, almost no one expected him to go to such extremes. Many believe he has lost control of the government to the intelligence service and armed forces.

Analysts have long described his government as a triad in which the president shares power with the heads of the military and the intelligence service. But the latest moves by the administration have convinced many analysts that Mr Fujimori has lost the upper hand.

"This is the beginning of the end for Fujimori and the dictatorial way he has ruled Peru," said Jávier Diez Canseco, an opposition congressman. "Fujimori either has to break ranks with the generals and advisers behind his repressive regime or they will break him. There is too much public outrage for things to continue as they have."

In recent days, thousands of union workers, professional people and students, waving banners and chanting anti-Fujimori slogans, have filled the plazas and streets of Lima in the largest demonstrations against the government's policies since Mr Fujimori took office in 1990.

> 'Fujimori has to break ranks with the generals or they will break him'

"A few weeks ago I would have been afraid to march against the government, because people who protest are often killed and tortured," said Jorge Marina, a teacher who demonstrated last week in front of the presidential palace. "But Fujimori has gone too far this time. There is no democracy left. There is no hope for our children."

Even many of Mr Fujimori's close friends and allies, including cabinet members, foreign diplomats and members of congress, have expressed concern. The foreign minister, Francisco Tudela, said he had resigned with four other ministers as "a matter of conscience".

An opinion poll released on Sunday found 19 per cent of 400 people questioned in Lima last week approved of Mr Fujimori's government, compared with 39.5 per cent in May and 77 per cent after the hostage rescue in April. It was the president's lowest ebb in seven years of power. — New York Times.

Young men loyal to the Kenyan opposition flee as police fire into the air to move them from outside parliament in Nairobi PHOTOGRAPH: GEORGE MULALA

Youths fight outside Kenyan parliament

Reuter in Nairobi

SUPPORTERS of the ruling Kenya African National Union (Kanu) party clashed with opposition members outside parliament in Nairobi yesterday.

Witnesses said 50 youths shouting slogans in support of Kanu and a similar sized group loyal to opposition parties confronted each other outside the parliament building in the Kenyan capital. They threw stones and chased each other with sticks.

Police inside the parliament fired five times to disperse the opposition supporters but it was unclear if the shots were live ammunition or rubber bullets. Two people were injured by flying stones, witnesses said.

The clashes were triggered by a row between an opposition-backed alliance pressing for constitutional reforms before elections, and Kanu.

Opposition parliamentarians inside the building accused Kanu of deliberately bringing the youths to parliament to harass them as they entered or left.

'Easy Rider' bar suffers burn-up

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

THE biker bar in Hollywood owned by Peter Fonda and his partner in the legendary biker film Easy Rider, Dennis Hopper, will be rebuilt after a fire gutted it on Wednesday.

Consumed in the flames at the Thunder Roadhouse in Sunset Boulevard was a priceless collection of Harley-Davidson motorcycles, the deep-throated "hogs" beloved of the Hell's Angels gang, and other memorabilia associated with biker life on the road. An Indian motorcycle made in 1920 served as the bar's centre-piece.

"All this stuff was priceless," the manager, Michael Eisenberg, said. "We had to wrest it out of people's collections, and we'll never be able to replace it. But rebuilding starts today."

An electrical fault started the blaze, and arson has been ruled out.

The bar, which tried to turn Hollywood into Harleywood, exploited the new up-market biking craze: wealthy actors, doctors, lawyers, producers and others with money to burn have purchased Harleys at prices reaching $30,000 (£18,000). German professional men spend biker holidays in California renting the huge machines for more than $100 a day.

It's a long way back to 1969, when Fonda and Hopper accidentally created a world hit film with Easy Rider, in which two hippy-minded bikers take to the road in search of the "real America". The nearest it gets to the modern affluent biker is Jack Nicholson's portrayal of a boozy lawyer.

The film cost less than $1 million to make and defied all predictions with its runaway success. But Hollywood lost millions in poor imitation follow-ups.

The career of both stars faded soon after, and Hopper lost a decade stoned on drugs in New Mexico. He sobered up to make a comeback in the 1980s and is still acting. Fonda continued to work in obscure movies but found success this year in Ulee's Gold, which was critically acclaimed at Robert Redford's Sundance film festival.

The two actors teamed up with the country singer Dwight Yoakam to open the Thunder Roadhouse four years ago. It quickly attracted the Rubs — rich urban bikers — and the machines parked outside represent a small fortune.

Yemenis staking claim to Mars file suit over Nasa 'trespass'

Reuter in Sana'a

TWO Yemeni men claiming ownership of Mars have filed a lawsuit against the United States space agency Nasa for trespassing during its continuing mission to the red planet.

Mustafa Khalil and Abdullah al-Amri gave documents to Yemen's prosecutor-general which they said proved their claim, the weekly newspaper Al-Thawra said yesterday.

"They said they received the planet as an inheritance from ancient ancestors and therefore rejected the landing of the US spacecraft without their prior notification and permission," the paper said.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Pathfinder spacecraft landed on Mars on July 4, setting the stage for unprecedented exploration by a dune-buggy-type vehicle called the Sojourner.

The two men asked Yemen's prosecutor-general to bring to court the US ambassador David Newton, saying steps taken by Nasa were the responsibility of the US government.

"[They] also called on Yemen's judiciary to oblige the US government to stop the current Nasa mission on Mars ... until justice has had its say."

If we don't reach you within an hour, we'll give you £10.
The AA and RAC won't.
WHEN YOUR CAR LETS YOU DOWN, Green Flag won't. On average, we rescue our members in just 35 minutes.* And if we're not with you in less than one hour, you can claim £10 back.
call free today on
0800 001 343
Green Flag
Motoring Assistance
WE LEAVE EVERYONE STANDING BUT YOU
http://www.greenflag.co.uk

SONY
THE Total Communication PACKAGE

POWERFUL. INCENTIVE.
VODAFONE
The Total Package available from two great brands, Sony Cellular Services and Vodafone, with the incentive worth listening to
FIVE FREE CDs
when you connect a CM-DX1000e to Sony Cellular Services Airtime on the Vodafone network
CD Titles*
Bruce Springsteen, Greatest Hits
Miles Davis, The Very Best of
Celine Dion, Colour of my Love
Opera Arias, Compilation
Uncovered, Compilation
The Sony CM-DX1000e digital mobile phone is now available at a special price as part of a very special offer
£39.99 inc VAT
The CM-DX1000e delivers up to a massive 10 hours talktime or up to 70 hours standby time. A digital (GSM) phone with a lithium ion battery, which allows recharging at any time without any battery memory effect. This superb phone is easy to use, and offers memory facility and full data compatibility. A mobile phone that works as long and hard as you do.
The Total Communication Package for business or pleasure. Connect direct 24 hours a day or at your local dealer to Sony Cellular Services and you can rely on us delivering:
- Choice of 3 tariffs for low, medium or regular usage, all with inclusive minutes and one second billing
- 24 hour, 365 days a year manned Customer Care helpline
- 48 hour delivery service
- 14 day exchange
- 12 months guarantee
- 24 hour replacement phone service**
TO CONNECT OR FIND YOUR NEAREST DEALER CALL NOW
0800 511 611
Ref S06 (24 hours a day)
Sony Cellular Services can also connect a range of other phones and the FIVE FREE CD offer still applies. Available exclusively from your local Sony Cellular Services dealer.

The **Guardian**
Friday July 25 1997
Edition Number 46,925
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Fax No. 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

Just one final heave . . .

The Scots must vote strongly for devolution

FOR MORE than 100 years, Scots have been battling for some form of self-government. At first it was only a slightly eccentric band of Scots, grouped round the Scottish Home Rule Association, founded in 1886, but support gradually increased. Thirteen bills were introduced before the First World War. The Irish left but the Scots never quite made it. More bills for Scotland were introduced in the inter-war years and again after the Second World War. The attempts were repeatedly frustrated, partly because of the duplicity of the Westminster Establishment but mainly because of divisions among the Scots themselves. Yesterday's white paper marks the best chance yet for the Scots to complete what John Smith decribed as Labour's "unfinished business".

The Scots appear to have reached a settled will, with little opposition any longer to devolution. The messy debacle of the 1979 referendum is unlikely to be repeated. That referendum took place at the fag-end of a Labour government, with Labour MPs openly divided.

The Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, has done well for the Scots. His white paper delivers almost everything agreed by the Scottish people in a remarkable exercise in democracy, the Scottish Constitutional Convention, which brought together Labour, the Liberal Democrats, the churches, the unions, councils and others. The blueprint they thrashed out is almost identical to the white paper: a 129-member Parliament, elected by a form of PR, with tax-raising and legislative powers.

The price exacted by the Unionists in the Cabinet grouped round the Home Secretary, Jack Straw was a reduction in the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster. Few will argue against this: what would be dishonest would be to claim this is an answer to the West Lothian Question (the argument that Scottish MPs at Westminster should have no say in English matters as English MPs have no say in Scottish matters). It is not the numbers that are in contention but the principle. Labour has argued in the past that this is an anomaly and that we will just have to live with it: after all, we put up with the Lords for long enough. The only real answer rests with the Liberal Democrats — a federal Britain — and we may yet evolve towards such a structure.

A more important question is whether creation of a Scottish Parliament will maintain the Union — just as Catalonia has remained part of Spain and Bavaria part of Germany — or whether it will lead to full independence. It is a 50-50 shout. Under the security of the European Union umbrella, independence is a feasible option. Labour's response is a grown-up one: if the Scots eventually opt for independence, then so be it. But Labour will do its damndest to avoid that by trying to make devolution work. Devolution is not simply a matter for the Scots. Dismantling the structures at Westminster opens the way for getting rid of lots of staid practices and moving Britain towards a genuinely decentralised state. It will be a remarkable achievement for Labour, given that it won the election as a highly-disciplined and centralised force.

The Guardian's late and much loved columnist, James Cameron, a Scot, writing about the Scottish devolution debate in the 1970s said the problem with the Scots was they liked argument for its own sake: "The Scotch have forever taken enormous pains never to be on the winning side." That has been true of the debate on self-government up until now. The Scots have the opportunity in their referendum on September 11 to finally emerge on the winning side. We hope, for the sake of democracy throughout the UK, that they vote overwhelmingly 'Yes'.

When counselling is not enough

Student distress has many causes, but exams play a part

SUICIDE is a very painful subject, particularly when it occurs among young people, and the grief caused by it makes the task of calm analysis even more difficult. The inquest into the case of Sarah Napuk has heard claims that the system let this student down seriously as she was approaching her finals at Oxford. This is not the first time that attention has focused on student distress at Oxford and also Cambridge, where it is widely believed that pressures, both social and academic, are more than usually acute. Four years ago Oxford University was sufficiently concerned to commission a report which showed that the level of attempted suicide was 30 per cent higher than among other young people in the 18-25 age range. Counselling services have since been improved, but the parents and a friend of Ms Napuk say that procedures were inadequate. Her father has urged other parents: "don't send your children to Oxford, it is not a safe place." The anguish which leads to such over-statement is understandable, but does it also contain some truth?

Any single case, however tragic, has to be set in a wider context. Suicide among young people is disproportionately high and is now the second biggest cause of death in that category after road accidents. Among students, at Oxford or anywhere else, depression or other forms of distress are a well-known hazard. The situation at the University of East Anglia, where about 12 per cent of the 7,000 students each year consult a student counsellor, is typical. A whole bundle of factors play a part: they include emotional problems with boy or girlfriends, peer competition, unrealistic expectations to achieve, and a troubled family background. This last category may be on the increase as more parents split up. Other stress-inducing factors on the increase are probably the contemporary drug and alcohol culture and — as critics of the Dearing report may argue — greater financial pressure upon many students. Last but certainly not least, there are the dreaded exams.

The Oxford report showed that student deaths were the result of a complex mixture of problems, and that in half the cases the students concerned already had psychiatric difficulties — as was the case with Ms Napuk. But suicide was more than ten times likely to occur at exam time than any other time. Exams are therefore an obvious point of stress. But while the counselling service has been expanded as a result of the report, Oxford's examination system remains substantially unchanged. The emphasis, especially in the humanities, is still upon the traditional "four questions in three hours" mode. Oxford has lagged far behind in innovations such as continuous assessment. Yet very little teaching — unlike that in most other universities — is explicitly geared to ways of tackling finals. If only to ease the pressure upon students at their most stressful time, this is an area urgently needing reform.

Just curry on downing it

Exploring the mysteries of the Anglo-Indian cuisine

THE LONDONER who complained to the waiter in a curry restaurant some years ago that his chicken tikka was a bit dry could hardly have been expected to predict the consequences. The Bangladeshi restaurateur got his chef to whip up a sauce with yogourt and nuts thereby giving birth to chicken tikka masala, a dish unknown in India or Bangladesh, but which was confirmed this week as Britain's favourite Indian meal. It is chosen by one in six curry eaters, twice as many as its nearest rival, chicken jalfrezi. Marks & Spencer moves over three million packets of chicken tikka masala a year.

It is not unusual for culinary dishes to take on a life of their own. Balti (it means bucket) cuisine was invented in Sparkbrook before sweeping the country. Sweet and sour pork balls were produced in response to a Western image of what Chinese food ought to be. The dish didn't come out of China but is now appearing there to satisfy the foreign devils' view of what indigenous food ought to be (in the same way that marketing people in the 1960s dreamed up the "Ploughman's lunch" for pubs all over Britain). The growth of Indian/Bangladeshi restaurants from almost none in the early sixties to 7,300 today is an outstanding success story worthy of serious study in business schools. They now serve about 155 million meals a year.

But it is not just a question of quantity. The quality of curries has improved enormously and continues to do so even if prestigious restaurant guides have yet to see it. This may now change if the popadoms are being read correctly. When Nico Landenis, chef at one of Britain's top-rated Michelin restaurants, was asked on Desert Island Discs recently what dish he would take with him to the island, he replied basmati rice with curry. We rest our case.

Letters to the Editor

A word from the Minister

YOUR Leader reasonably asks for assurance that our proposals to reform higher education funding will not hit the poorest (July 24). It was precisely to avoid them doing so that we decided to exempt students from less well-off families from paying for education through a tuition fee. Your Leader also seems to ignore the fact that fees are already paid by both part-time students and those in further education, where there is little or no maintenance support. Sir Ron has recommended that we look particularly at the position of part-timers in terms of access, and we intend to do so over the summer. It saddens me that so much is said about those in Higher Education, while so few tears are shed for the two million adults already paying fees in Further Education.

The argument for keeping education free for the least well-off, while extending existing maintenance loans, is clear. The expansion of Higher Education will mean more students studying closer to home or undertaking distance learning courses. We want to encourage all to participate in such developments — keeping education free will help to do so among the less well-off.

It is, however, a little odd to assume that because poorer students will get access to larger subsidised loans than those from better-off families, we are penalising the poor. Students will have access to the same living allowances while they study as at present.

Our proposals are based on future earnings rather than present circumstances. Repayments will be made on an income contingent basis over a considerably longer period of time than at present — without any real rate of interest. Such a system will not unduly penalise those at the lower end of the earnings scale as the present scheme does. If a student is earning a smaller income, they make smaller repayments.

You seem to quote Stephen Dorrell approvingly for his comments. Since the Conservatives have been eroding the student grant since 1990, I will take no lectures from that quarter — particularly since he had no proposals for expansion and investment in the sector himself. We have had to face the reality that student numbers have increased rapidly — if expansion in access is to continue, we must fund it. By exempting the poorest from fees at the same time as avoiding increases in up-front parental contributions, we will raise the money needed to widen access and participation into the 21st century.
Rt Hon David Blunkett MP,
Secretary of State for
Education and Employment,
Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street,
London SW1P 3BT.

FOR the last 21 years I have worked in a school in David Blunkett's Sheffield Brightside constituency. Less than one per cent of the pupils I teach have parents who have been into higher education; the level of poverty is among the worst in the country. After a lot of hard work by teachers, careers advisers, FE and university staff, the FE participation rates of our school leavers has been increasing bit by bit over the years, but is still below the national average. The prevailing need of vast numbers of parents with 16-year-olds in this area is to get them to work, earning money. How are they to be persuaded to support a young adult through at least five years of unpaid study?
Steve Knight,
44 Kildonan Grove,
Sheffield S12 4WX.

MY RESEARCH in Manchester of nearly 3,000 full-time students in schools, college and university has found that working during term-time is already significant, and when this is combined with vacation work, the vast majority of students are engaged in a continuum of working and studying from age 16 or earlier.

If we add to the student funding crisis the fact that the exemption of young workers from the minimum wage will make young people a very attractive cheap labour source, we can expect student working to increase and intensify, with more students having to work longer hours. It is conceivable that cities like Manchester will come to be characterised by a cheap student labour segment, and this may have unfortunate consequences for other young people who are struggling to enter the world of work.
(Dr) Rosemary Lucas,
Manchester Metropolitan
University,
Manchester M15 6BH.

Can pain be controlled? And if not, can one make a quick exit?

AS individual members of the BMA's medical ethics committee we wish to dissociate ourselves from the statement made by Dr Stuart Horner, chairman of the BMA's medical ethics committee, (Euthanasia doctor accused of executions, July 21). The BMA's most recently stated position is that it "recognises that there is a wide spectrum of views about the issues of physician assisted suicide and euthanasia and strongly opposes any change in the law for the time being". We believe that Dr Horner's views represent one extreme of that spectrum.

We endorse Dr Vivienne Nathanson's statement that any doctor who admits to taking a patient's life must face the consequences before the courts and the GMC.
(Dr) Paddy Glackin,
Brondesbury Villas,
London NW6.

THE public and health care professionals are being seriously misinformed about morphine in the euthanasia debate about provoked by Drs Irwin and Moor (Report, July 21). They are being given the impression that morphine causes death or at least shortens life. When used properly, this is not the case.

Experience gained over the last 30 years has shown that when morphine is used correctly to counteract pain in a carefully balanced way it does not cause or accelerate death. Severe unrelieved pain leads to emotional and physical exhaustion which may well hasten death. In many circumstances such as advanced cancer, morphine is our most effective painkiller. When used appropriately, it relieves pain completely in the majority of cancer patients.

No patient or doctor should feel isolated or helpless in the face of severe pain or distress. Specialist advice regarding the relief of such suffering in terminal illness is widely available through palliative care services.

Morphine is an essential drug for the relief of severe pain. It is not only tragic but also ethically unacceptable that the proponents of euthanasia are giving patients the completely wrong impression that morphine will cause or hasten death.

It is ironic that by so doing they are very likely to increase suffering by causing patients to decline the analgesia they need.
(Dr) Fiona Randall,
Consultant, palliative medicine,
(Dr) Nigel Sykes,
Consultant, palliative medicine,
St Christopher's Hospice,
51-59 Lawrie Park Road,
London SE26 6DZ.

A KEY point with regard to euthanasia is that, in certain patients, medicine cannot achieve analgesia while maintaining an acceptable quality of life: unrelenting constipation and somnolence, with a clouded consciousness and cognitive impairment, result. Pain may still be perceived. If the treatment phase, and especially the palliative phase, of a terminal illness is unacceptable, euthanasia may be the best answer. Society must face this. Despite some advances, the "do what is required" analgesic is a long way off.
David E Clark,
(Pharmacologist)
Palace Gardens,
Royston.

The Lolita film: Irons in the fire

IT was refreshing to read Jeremy Irons' bold comments on the subject of Lolita and the increasingly censorious climate (Arts, July 23). The reaction to Lolita is revealing of the more insidious forms of censorship and self-censorship that result from altogether newer sensibilities than those that brought the old duffers of Westminster Council out to puff and pant about Crash. A general wariness of causing offence (remember that the British Board of Film Classification had Crash vetted by an audience of disabled people) and a paranoia about children (the Good Son was never released because of the Jamie Bulger case) may not involve the law courts or the official censors but they nevertheless have the effect of stifling creativity and free expression.
Liz Frayn,
Argyle Street,
Glasgow G3.

LUVVIES do talk a lot of tosh. Physical gratification has more to do with self-love than with love, as Irons seems to define it. The belief that love can be expressed only by full sexual intercourse is puerile as well as dangerous. Luvvies, of all people, ought to know something about sublimation.
F Aicken,
The Hyde,
Hatfield, Herts AL9.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

Second degree

WITH regard to the tragic death of Sarah Napuk, I find the attitude of Oxford University's authorities incredibly smug (Suicide student 'had long history of depression', July 24). That they should feel that they have adeqate counselling provision after this young woman's death and see no need to investigate or improve is typical of the oldest English university. The tacit Oxford attitude is "We are the best. If you can't hack it here you're no good". Sarah's counsellor was advising her to leave. However well meaning, if one is depressed about apparent academic failure, this can be taken to imply that you aren't good enough.
Ian Collier,
18 Howard Street,
Oxford OX4 3BE.

Jack's the lad

JAMES Woods's appraisal of Jack London is flawed and partial (The call of the dollar, July 24). What about his socio-political work? Martin Eden, People of the Abyss and The Iron Heel are remarkable books informed by solid socialist principles and a positive view of human nature.

The Iron Heel, for example, is, on the one hand, a classic political thriller and on the other it is a clear, concise analysis of the way big business contrives to protect its interests from the threat of workers' movements and democratic forces in general. Jack London should not be underestimated.
Graham Smith,
20 Blythendale House,
Mansford Street,
London E2.

Black arts

THERE seems to be an over-rigid technological determinism underpinning certain sections of Richard Dyer's otherwise valuable article (Is the camera racist?, July 18). Any competent cinematographer can light a sequence to favour black skins rather than white skins.

That's why, when he travelled abroad to international summits, Dr Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana, was always accompanied by a Ghanaian camera crew, to ensure that some of the newsreel footage favoured his skin tones, rather than those of the non-black statesmen with whom he was regularly dealing.
James Leahy,
520 Ben Jonson House,
Barbican,
London EC2Y 8NH.

So, how much?

SO THE Church of England isn't "proposing to pay over £200,000 to get rid of Brandon Jackson" (Letters, July 23). This still leaves the question of how much he *is* being paid to end his disastrous career in Lincoln. The Church of England has a duty to its other clergy — whose antics haven't publicly undermined the Church's credibility and who lose 4 per cent of their pensions for each year they retire before 65 — to come clean about the details of the final settlement. And is it just coincidence that the Dean's resignation was announced after the General Synod had met for its summer session, thus preventing any awkward questions there?
(Rev Dr) Neil Burgess,
23 Drury Lane,
Lincoln LN1 3BN.

Harassment: groping for the truth

HAVING lived in Sydney at the time Helen Garner's book, The First Stone, was published (A question of degree, July 24), I can vouch for the furore created by the book and the opportunity it provided to those who wish to denounce women complaining of assault or sexual harassment as "politically correct whingers".

It is my fervent hope that the debate (if there is one) in this country does not plunge to similar depths. Regardless of the impact of Ms Garner's book, two important points must not be overlooked. Firstly, Ms Garner never spoke to the two female Melbourne University students who made the allegations against Dr Gregory. The book is therefore a completely one-sided account of the incident from the point of view of a person seeking to vindicate his reputation. Secondly, the effects of unexpected or unwanted sexual pressure in a situation of power imbalance can never be totally brushed away with quick wits or a quick slap.
Merris Amos,
Goldhurst Terrace,
London NW6.

Look to the fuscia

ISN'T Hague's new slogan Fresh Future a bit of a mouthful? I keep wanting to say Fresh Fuchsia. Does he really want to be associated with a new shade from Dulux?
Oliver Humpage,
21 Yarborough Road,
Lincoln LN1 1HT.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: Going about my county, with stick in hand and country diarist's notebook in my pocket, I met hundreds of people during the last month who were planning to attend the Countryside Rally recently held in Hyde Park. I decided to go with them. I had to leave home at 5.30am; we travelled in a special train leaving Morpeth at crack of dawn and returned in the gathering dusk. I got home at midnight. It turned out not to be all about fox hunting, but a much wider issue. "The countryside is alright as it is," said a young man on our train. "I'm a shepherd and there's more foxes about than in my dad's day. Field sports is part of the scene." A farmer's wife, who had left her five children with her mum for the day to be at the rally, agreed. "Where we live hunting and shooting are our social life, our boys work as beaters on local shoots. We don't want that to go. Animal rights folk want to look to the calves in crates and the battery birds. They're the ones suffering." In Hyde Park, everyone I spoke to defended rural life in its present form. A picture restorer, a townee, joined me and we sat on the grass and ate ice creams and listened to a whiskery Highlander filling his cheeks with air and blowing into his bagpipes with pride. He had come to the rally from Aberdeenshire along with gamekeepers and ghillies in a coach just for the day. "The country folk are right to put up a fight," said the picture restorer. "After all, they have to live and work in the country. What about the four million new houses scheduled to be built. A bigger headache than field sports, I'd say." Later we waved our song sheets and sang Jerusalem along with 100,000 others and cheered the weary, sun-burnt core marchers who had felt strongly enough to march across Britain to defend their cause. I'm glad that I was there.

VERONICA HEATH

هكذا من الأصل

Diary

Matthew Norman

THE world's cyber community rejoices at a new member of the Internet family. It is Saddam Hussein. To mark his 60th birthday, Saddam has set up a home page, which can be reached at *http://chat-.com.jo//iraq/*. We popped in yesterday and were entranced by "the speech of HE Saddam Hussein on the 29th anniversary of the 17-30 July Revolution" — a pithy oration at just over two hours long concluding with a rousing "Allah is great, Allah is great, let the despicable be despised." Let them indeed. In the President's picture gallery, meanwhile, we found him wearing a Martin Bell suit, surrounded by little girls, and looking great for 60. Rumours that Saddam is planning a second website for infidels are unconfirmed, but as regards e-mail he has contrived a cunning refinement on the old system: since Iraq has no Internet facilities of its own, his electronic mail box is over the border in Jordan. Any message sent to him is therefore printed out and driven the 500 miles to Baghdad. This means Saddam is only twice as quick in replying as our own Mr Tony Blair, who has failed to read a single item of e-mail since May 1, 1997.

FEARS about John Prescott's health briefly flared yesterday when he was pictured in the Times, in a story about his rejection of plans to widen the M25, with an entirely bald head. The concern receded, however, when Mr Prescott proved, in fact, to be Martin Fitzpatrick, the gay man fighting for marital rights over the tenancy of his lover's flat. So it's hats off to the Old Thunderer . . . not so much for using the wrong picture, but for having the guts to do so in every single edition up to and including the last.

I AM distressed to report that, in the Spectator, sane and rational Paul Johnson tells a falsehood. Paul has accused the Guardian, and its editor, of saying that he is "criminally insane, fit only for a padded cell". I challenge Paul to produce a shred of evidence of any criminal element to the general allegation of madness (of which, as you know, the Diary takes the dimmest view). Should he fail to do so, I will be obliged to report him forthwith to the Press Complaints Commission for propagating lies. It pains me to be so stern with an old and valued friend, but when Paul becomes overexuberant — and he does, you know; bless his soul, he does — swift and condign correction is the only answer.

FOLLOWING news of the nascent link up with the Lib Dems, further ominous signs emerge of New Labour's ambition to keep the Tories out of office. To be held on October 11, at LSU College in Southampton, is a talk entitled "Labour: the next 1,000 years".

A BUS driver's bold attempt to disguise a small mistake has narrowly failed in Zimbabwe. According to the Fortean Times, the unnamed driver was moving 20 mental patients from Harare to Bulawayo when he stopped at a roadside cafe for a few drinks. When he returned to the vehicle, all the patients had escaped, so he had a brainwave: he drove to the nearest bus stop, offered 20 people a free journey, and drove them to the hospital, telling staff that they were "easily excitable". It took the hospital three days to work out the deception, while local reports insist that the real patients are *still at liberty*.

THE name of Howard Flight, new Tory MP for Arundel, will not be cloaked in obscurity *much longer*, to judge by an interview he gave to a recent edition of Westminster bulletin the House Magazine. For Mr Flight, a moneyed Thatcher-loving Europhobe, was a child prodigy to rank alongside Mozart and Little Jimmy Osmond. "I was a post-war baby, and I can remember the sense of relief when we finally got rid of rationing and the Attlee government," said Mr Flight, who was born in 1948. The Attlee government went in 1951.

School's out – but the kids are locked up

Decca Aitkenhead

THE whole point about being 15 years old, as I recall, was to have a good bitch about everything. A lot of what you'd come out with was valid, and a lot was wildly unreasonable — but even in the fever of adolescent indignation, you had a pretty good idea which was which. This knowledge never spoiled your attachment to your more idiotic argument, though. You were 15, for God's sake, and *supposed* to get a few things wrong.

On learning yesterday that 15-year-old Sarah Briggs had been expelled for slagging off her school to the local paper, it would have been easy to confine our unease to the head's justification: that the girl's comment "could effect *future pupil numbers*". What kind of system have we created, where teenagers are obliged to act as sales reps for their school? But there is something else, equally troubling, about the affair, and it involves our sense of how we allow children to grow up.

Most schools broke up on Wednesday, with six weeks stretching ahead for kids to mess about, make mistakes, hurt themselves, say the wrong thing, hang out with the wrong people, get into trouble and grow up. For the children playing in a London park that evening, summer had just begun. You'd have expected a giddy end-of-term thrill. In fact, you couldn't have guessed they'd just broken up. They were being watched closely by grown-ups, just like at school, as they will be all day every day until they go back in September. Weren't *they excited to be on holiday?* Not especially, they shrugged.

Two mums were sitting on a bench, eyeing their seven-year-old girls. Were their daughters allowed to go to the the corner shop by themselves? Oh no, they couldn't leave the house alone. With each other? No. Could they play out in the street? Definitely not. What about just going round to a friend's house to pay?

"We-ell, you'd have to have checked out the parents, know what they were like and everything," began one mum.

"No," interrupted the other. "*What she's asking is, could* your lass just walk round to the house without you?"

"Oh! Sorry — well, no. Of course not." It's not the traffic they're worried about, she explained. It's "other people".

We are familiar now with the idea that people's perceptions of risk are wildly out of keeping with the facts; that *while the number of assaults* on children by strangers is static, our fear has spiralled out of control. But these women cheerfully acknowledged that "there have always been perverts", and that life is no more dangerous than when they were running around by themselves as kids.

What has changed, then, is less our perception of *danger* than the moral virtue we have *made of our fear. As* the mothers talked, it was clear they didn't see danger as a sad fact of life, to be reluctantly weighed against the importance of independence. They were proudly, boastfully, virtuously fearful. That, they said, was what made a good mother.

At this point it is traditional to blame the media. Hysterical coverage of the paedophile menace is certainly unhelpful; if anyone is going to abuse these women's children, it will probably be their partners or relatives, in the very homes they are so carefully *keeping their kids locked up* in. Alarmist, too, is the sort of reporting of the two girls who drowned on a family picnic near Leeds this week. An adult turned her attention away for SECONDS, screamed the headlines, AND THEY HAD GONE. This should "serve as a warning".

But what we often overlook is the enormous interest business has in making a virtue of fear. The money to be made from convincing us that the moral imperative of being alive is simply staying alive — with everything from personal alarms to mobile phones, bottled water, sun-tan lotion and insurance policies ("for the life you don't yet know") — is astronomical. And once we've been convinced that it's frankly irresponsible to set foot outside, well there's a whole electronic *leisure world to buy for the* kids, to fill up the endless hours indoors. We aren't allowed to make our own assessment of risk; a good

> The mothers didn't see danger as a sad fact of life, but were proudly, boastfully, virtuously fearful

parent is defined by a willingness to literally buy business's version of it. And so the only safe childhood is a virtual childhood.

In a consumer society which fetishises safety, we are deluded into believing risk *can* be eliminated. We must just try harder, and spend more, and then our children will be safe. Frank Furedi, in *his new book The Culture Of* Fear, notes that this is often mistakenly praised as "a cry for a new accountability" — when, in fact, all we end up with is a grotesque blame culture, where we cannot come to terms with the fact that, sometimes, bad things just happen. The conviction of a childminder for manslaughter this week was greeted with cries for new and tighter registration of nannies. But the child minder *was* registered, and had been for eight years. She was a woman of "impeccable character" who had simply "snapped".

Well, maybe you can't legislate against disaster, parents will concede, but where's the harm in trying? The harm is overwhelming. At the most mundane physical level, we are starting to wonder why so many children are so fat. This *is no great mystery; they* aren't allowed to run around any more. But the damage to their development is more disturbing.

Very few character-forming experiences worth having take place indoors under adult supervision — and yet we wonder why kids seem so screwed up these days. We teach our children to run a mile if a stranger so much as *looks at them, then wonder* why people don't talk to each other any more. Mistakes are catastrophes, instead of good experience; we want teenagers to engage with their society, then panic and expel them if they say the "wrong" thing.

It is, of course, absolutely right to want to protect your child. It is dangerous to think you always can. The tragic irony of the girls who drowned this week is that the woman looking after them got distracted because two youths appeared. She was afraid they might be trying to steal the *girls' things*.

Now, about my ex-husband's personal hygiene

Bel Littlejohn

A PEOPLE person: *c'est moi*. As an award-winning writer, I'm fascinated by what makes people around me tick. And yes, I admit it, I was widely praised for the searing honesty I brought to describing this lifelong obsession in the landmark *Observer columns that* detailed the day-to-day progress of my first marriage.

These pieces started with the momentous Only Three Days Into Our Honeymoon And Already He's Snoring Too Loud (Observer, June 7, 1988). The rest, as they say, is history. It provoked an unprecedented response from readers, hundreds of them identifying with my pain, over two dozen urging me to leave him there and then. If only I had taken their advice! But I battled on regardless, through thick and thin, thinking, I suppose, that I could *save him from himself* by embarrassing him each week in print.

The following week's article was equally up-front. For God's Sake Why Won't He Stop Leaving His Toe-Nail Clippings Over the Bathroom Floor? first appeared in the Observer of June 14, 1988, though of course it has subsequently been anthologised many times. Over the next 18 months, I analysed, with at times painful honesty, the shortcomings of the man I had erroneously chosen as my husband. Memorable landmark pieces included Could Someone Please Inform Him About Personal Hygiene? (Observer, April 12, 1989); How Many More Times Must I Tell Him To Be Grateful To Me? (Observer, August 23, 1989); The Day I Told Him What I Really Thought of His Mum (November 6, 1989); and the award-winning Why Did That Insensitive Bastard Walk Out On Me? (December 26, 1989)

But like all men, he got his revenge. When he left me, he must have realised that he was taking away my livelihood. After he walked out, I managed to squeeze perhaps half-a-dozen articles out of the new situation I found myself in — He Even Took The Hawkwind Concept Album (Observer, January 7, 1990); I'd Kick Him Out If He Left Me Again, (Observer, January 14, 1990) etc, but before long the editor sent me a memo saying that, unless my man returned pretty quick, he felt the series had probably *run its natural course*. My friends urged me to look around for another single guy, preferably one who was equally worth writing with searing honesty about. They said it would inject more life into my column and gain me a bigger byline. The name Andrew Neil was even mentioned. But a woman's got her pride.

> Friends urged me to get another guy, one worth writing about with searing honesty: it would inject more life into my column and get a bigger byline

It was around this time that I noticed a new niche in the newspaper market. Every week, more and more columns were devoted to the ailments and illnesses of the most popular columnists. One of them, Me And My Verucca, by Independent columnist Joy Greenley, had even been nominated for a UK Press Gazette award. Another, Living With A Sore Elbow by Jack Skurvey in The Times, was in its third year, and was admired by the newspaper for attracting much-needed advertising revenue from the anti-sore-elbow international drug companies.

First stop, my doctor, for an all-over check-up. The results? Disappointing: there was nothing wrong with me. But he told me that, with luck, I might just have the beginnings of an in-growing toenail, and that, to guarantee a good night's sleep, I should take a bit more care of my drink intake.

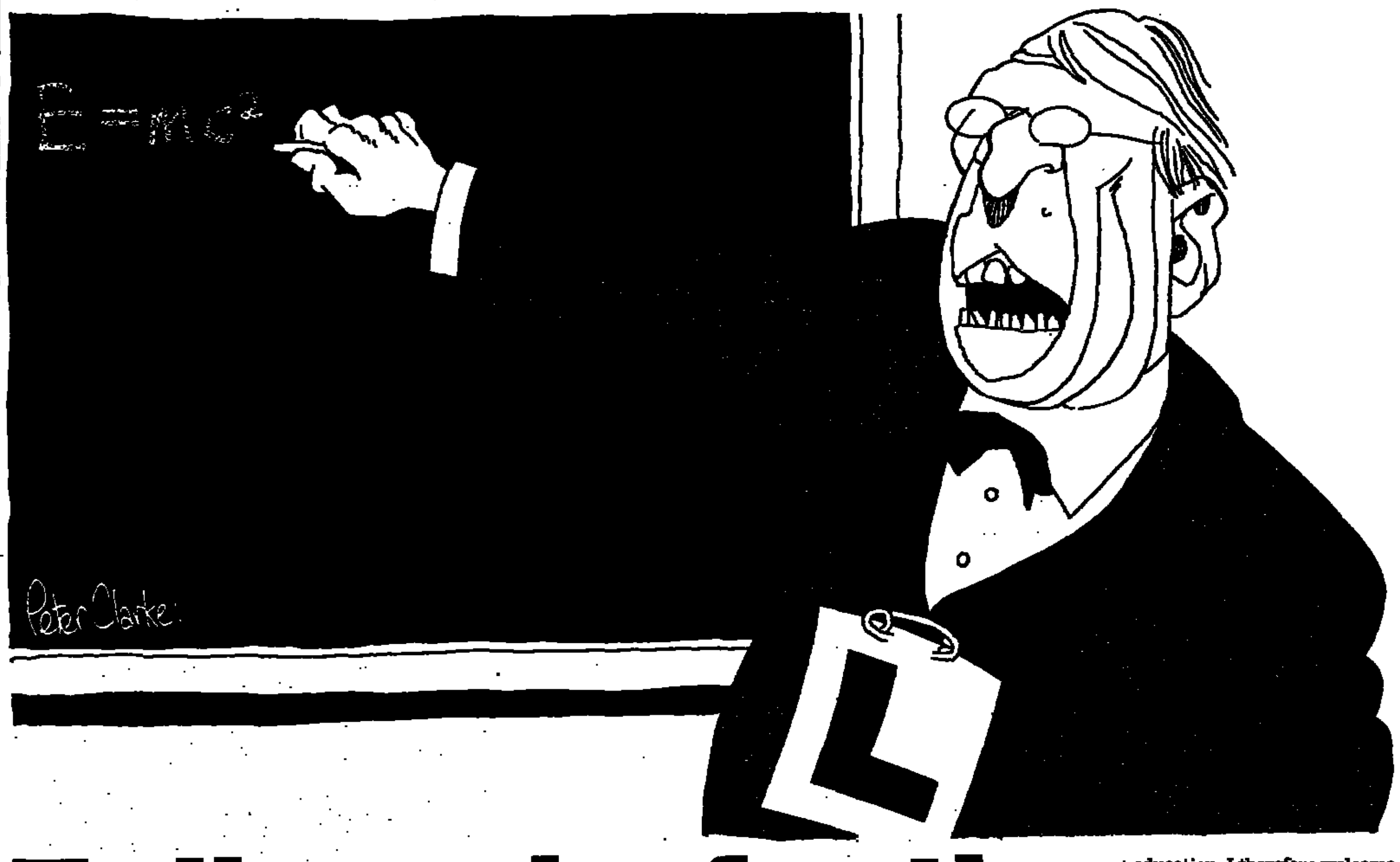
There was no time to waste. Before the end of the day, I was on to the editors of the Health Pages of six national newspapers. The rest is history. My seminal column, Coping With An Ingrowing Toenail, ran in the Incurable *Disease and Weekend Motoring* section of the Sunday Times for nearly two years, gaining a major trophy (The Wellcome Institute Ingrowing Toenail Journalist Of The Year Award, 1990) in its first six months.

My popularity with my lovely, caring readers — many of whom wrote in to me with their own, very moving experiences of ingrowing toenails — was recognised by the editor of the supplement when he added a photo-byline to the column, depicting my face alongside the toe in question.

What advice would you give to the next Bel Littlejohn? was the question I was asked by Media Guardian a month ago. My reply? Develop a drink problem, then write about it — 850 words a week, easy.

When my Coping With An Ingrowing Toenail column was judged to have run its natural course, I remembered my doctor's warning about alcohol. Was it possible that I — Bel Littlejohn — might possibly be turning into an alcoholic? The idea was a nightmare, and, like all nightmares, worth at least 750 words.

A fortnight later, To Hell And Back With Bel, my devastating series of searing and painfully honest columns was underway in the Observer. Each week, I detail, with chilling — and sometimes darkly comical! — honesty, my descent into a nether world where one sherry before dinner is simply not *enough, and a painful place* where barely a day goes by without scrambling to the fridge and drowning one's sorrows in two medium-sized glasses of dry white wine. My advice to my fellow women columnists? Forget men. An illness never lets you down.



Full marks for the Dearing Report

Claus Moser applauds the recommendations on higher education – particularly the emphasis on teaching – but warns the Government that it must stick to its pledges on university funding

I COULD not help but see the Dearing Report on Higher Education through the eyes of a survivor of the Robbins Committee. Its report came out 34 years ago and has retained a strong hold on thinking to this day. Can Dearing expect a similar influence in the years to come? My answer is an emphatic yes.

What has landed on my desk is a remarkable achievement, a logically-structured, well-grounded report *running to* 466 pages backed by eight supplementary volumes. It starts with a broad vision for higher education: "Over the next 20 years, the United Kingdom must create a society committed to learning throughout life. That commitment will be required from individuals, the State, employers and providers of education and training." This "compact" between all the relevant parties animates the entire report, much of it built on Robbins; the emphasis on widening access is a particular reminder that Robbins *first* triggered this process a generation ago.

When the Dearing Committee was appointed it was clear that tricky funding decisions lay ahead — with tuition fees a *near-inevitability*. So it has turned out. There can be arguments about details, but it is to the credit of this Government that it has grasped the nettle. Understandably it has been a tough decision for David Blunkett and the Government, but sadly I'm sure that it is right.

Consider the numbers. At the time of Robbins, some 5 per cent of the age group were reaching higher education. Twenty years ago it was 15 per cent, and today a remarkable 30 per cent. If it weren't for the cuts, that would be good news. But in the same 20 years, the doubling in student numbers has been matched by a public funding increase in real terms *of only 45 per cent*. The result is a fall in funding per student of 40 per cent, a crippling threat to standards.

This makes it all the more striking that universities have remained so effective. Scholarship, research and teaching have all continued, and many universities have established good ties with business and their local and regional neighbours — but concern about standards remain. In other words, today's crisis comes not from a lack of dedication on the part of university staffs, but from financial cuts.

Clearly the expansion of higher education should continue. Dearing is right to recommend that the lid should be taken off the present freeze on numbers, and that expansion should come mainly through two-year sub-degree courses in further education colleges. The report is equally sound on diversity of institutions. Some will be strong in research, others in teaching, and there will be varying subject mixes. I was *particularly pleased that the committee* set its mind against proposing an "Ivy League" of universities. Of course, some universities and departments will deserve more research support than others. But happily the Dearing Committee has not given in to pressure to formalise university categories, setting in stone one group of élite institutions uniquely entitled access to major funding.

But to me the most exciting aspect of Dearing is the emphasis on the one aspect of academic life which is so often under-valued: teaching. The committee recommends the *setting up of a professional* Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education with such aims in mind. It is a good idea, though the concept of "higher education teaching *as a profession in its own* right" only makes sense if the necessary link between teaching and research is never forgotten. Just as wisely, the committee recognises that the university teaching profession deserves an urgent review of conditions of service and pay.

The splendid and unfashionable emphasis on teaching leads to the thorny question of standards. With the vast drop in unit funding and pressure for efficiency gains, standards have been at *risk*, not only in capital infrastructure but in the intellectual life of our universities. The Dearing Report *does not pull its punches on* these dangers, so clearly ignored by past political masters bent on cuts.

One question is addressed directly: does a degree in a particular subject from University X compare with that from University Y? Indeed is total equality of courses necessary, possible, or even desirable? The Dearing response, which hopes at least for "threshold" *standards*, focuses on an extended role for the Quality Assurance Agency, and the external examiner system. This deserves urgent action.

Taken as a whole, I support the Dearing proposals on funding. I believe that a student contribution to tuition fees is inevitable if quality of education is to be assured. Dearing's proposals, closely in line with those from the National Commission on Education, seem right — a flat-rate contribution (20 per cent or 25 per cent of the average tuition fee) paid by all. In this way, part-time and full-time students will at last *be on equal terms*.

OF COURSE, with the best will in the world, there is a risk of discouraging applicants from poorer families, so the Government's means-test approach makes sense. I am less sure about the replacement of maintenance grants by loans, and on the whole prefer Dearing's *mix* of loans and grants, basically continuing the present system. But obviously the Government's scheme is more effective for saving money. Nevertheless, a full comparison *is difficult because, while* Dearing's proposals have been thoroughly studied, no analysis of the government's plans is yet available.

There remains a key point to *watch in the future, namely* what happens to the savings resulting from the funding changes. These will only come good over a spread of years, especially where loans are concerned. *So it is crucial*, however difficult the public finance implications, that Government commits those benefits to higher and further education. I therefore welcome Mr Blunkett's promise that "the Government will ensure that savings are used to improve quality, standards and opportunity for all in Further and *Higher Education*". The Government will not be allowed to forget this promise.

There will now be wide-ranging discussion of the Dearing proposals. As a true man *for action, Sir Ron helpfully* lists which organisations should field each of the recommendations.

I wish to add two others. One is the link between higher and further education, which need to be nurtured.

Secondly, I regard education as a seamless web from nursery school to education in old age. Indeed, it was one of the merits of the National Commission on Education that it took this view, and treated education as a coherent whole. Dearing inevitably focuses on higher education, but the committee's recommendations have vast implications for schools.

I note that Dearing proposes a further major review in five years' time. I agree that the 30-year gap since Robbins was too long, *but I doubt* whether another mammoth exercise will be needed so soon. What is more important is the year-on-year monitoring of the reforms, not least those to do with fees, grants and loans. This is the only way of assessing whether consequences are in line with original intentions.

This monitoring can be done in part by outside researchers such as a National Commission team, and partly by the Government, which hopefully will turn out to be more sympathetic than its predecessor to educational research and social statistics *generally*.

For obvious reasons, universities are in varying degrees in crisis and need help. If this is not tackled by the Government, there will be lasting *damage and the benefits* from Dearing's imaginative initiatives may, lamentably, come to all too little.

Sir Claus Moser is Chancellor of Keele University. He was a member of the Robbins Committee on higher education, and was director of the Central Statistical Office from 1967 to 1978

Year round European travel cover. From 16p a day.

At £59.95 a year, the security of Centurion Assistance cover arranged by American Express is effectively yours from just 16 pence a day. For that, you'll avoid the hassle of sorting insurance cover every time you travel whilst saving money too.

Best of all, you're protected for virtually every eventuality, even for certain hazardous and winter sports, at no additional cost.

What's more, you no longer have to be an American Express Cardmember to enrol.

Example Insurance Rates*

	Individual Under 65's	Family 2 adults and 2 children
Single Trip Cover Europe up to 17 days	£23.45	£58.55
European Annual Cover Up to 31 days per trip	£59.95	£99.95
Worldwide Annual Cover Up to 91 days per trip	£94.95	£144.95

All annual policies include up to 17 days free winter sports cover.

To enrol, call the number below quoting reference GV 8.

0800 700 737

Insurance Services

Brian Glover

A life on the boards

Brian Glover in 1974 and (above) in *Porridge* with Ronnie Barker and Fulton Mackay

BRIAN Glover, who has died from a brian tumour at the age of 63, was an man of many parts: actor, writer, one-time wrestler and teacher. Yet whatever roles he played after his first part as the bumptious games master in *Kes* — and they ranged from God in Bill Bryden's *The Mysteries* to the Miller in Michael Bogdanov's version of *The Canterbury Tales* — he remained reassuringly familiar: a bald, rubbery, pink-faced figure, whose bluff manner seemed to conceal a warm-hearted decency.

Glover was born in Barnsley, where his father combined a corner-shop grocery business with a second career as a wrestler: he was known as the Red Devil. Wrestling was clearly in the genes since Glover junior, who had moved from Barnsley grammar school to Sheffield University, took to the ring to supplement his student grant. One night in Wilmslow, when a foreign wrestler failed to turn up, he found himself being introduced as "Leon Arras — from Paris, France"; and the name stuck.

Even when he took a job as a teacher of English and French, he continued to live a double life. On Friday nights, he would drive from Barnsley to Leeds, hop on a plane to London and thence to the continent, where he would earn good money in the ring. Then it would be back to school on a Monday morning with the equivalent of a month's pay in his pocket. He never let on that over the weekend he had been pounding the canvas in Paris or Zurich.

It was in 1968 that he made the break into acting. His fellow schoolteacher, Barry Hines, had written a novel, *A Kestrel For A Knave*, about to be turned into a film by Tony Garnett and Ken Loach. Hines suggested Glover for the role of the overbearing games master, Sugden, and his performance lit up the screen. In the football-match scene he became the epitome of every teacher who releases his own thwarted ambitions on the boys.

Glover was clearly a natural; but it was two years before he was summoned from the schoolroom to play Captain Hardy in a starry Haymarket premiere of Terence Rattigan's Nelson play, *A Bequest To The Nation*. It was not a great success, but by then Glover was on his way. He was constantly in demand whenever directors wanted a tough, working-class character, built like a tank but capable of displaying an inner sensitivity.

On television he was one of three Leeds miners in Peter Terson's memorable trilogy, *The Fishing Party*, *Three For The Fancy* and *Shakespeare Or Bust*. For a while he was also Ronnie Barker's cellmate in *Porridge*. And, in the theatre, Glover became an indispensable part of the new school of regional realism. He was one of the rugby league players in David Storey's *The Changing Room* at the Royal Court and a revolutionary chef, reminding us that Labour's dream of the new Jerusalem had been indefinitely postponed, in Stephen Lowe's *Touched*, directed by Richard Eyre at the Nottingham Playhouse.

Much of Glover's best work in the theatre was done for Bill Bryden's famously earthy Cottesloe company at the National Theatre in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He was in O'Neill's *The Long Voyage Home* and *The Iceman Cometh* and played God in Tony Harrison's alliterative, working-class version of *The Mysteries*. It was Glover who established the tone of the whole trilogy as, from the height of a fork-lift truck, he announced in his richest Barnsley tones: "I am gracious and great, God withouten beginning."

IN the days when the single play was still a viable form, Glover wrote copiously for television, usually in a style of comic realism. He also, as a working actor, appeared in every kind of theatre: he did Shakespeare at Stratford, played a homophobic father forced into donning a dress in the Palladium version of *La Cage Aux Folles*, was the Sheriff in Sheffield pantomime, and toured the country in *The Canterbury Tales*, as a lewd master of ceremonies looking, as Jack Tinker said, like a mixture of Puck and Bacchus.

Glover specialised in a bluff, bold heartiness and a certain kind of North Country power figure. He was also an ultra-reliable pro who, shrewdly, knew that his Tetley Tea Folk ads were his private pension scheme. But it always struck me that there was more to Glover than met the eye: he was a kindly, intelligent man, who had lived a remarkable life and who managed to invest many of the characters he played with a residual goodness. In a newspaper questionnaire, he said that he would like to be remembered as "a devoted husband and father". To the rest of us he will also be gratefully recalled as an authentic, and very good, working-class actor.

He is survived by a daughter from his first marriage and by his wife, Tara and their son.

Michael Billington

Sir Richard Eyre writes: It's as hard to imagine a world without Brian as it is to imagine a world without weather — not that there was anything unpredictable or unchangeable or inconstant about him. He was all sunshine: warm, bright and indomitably cheerful. He was lured into acting by Ken Loach and then plucked out of teaching to appear in Terence Rattigan's play *The Quest Of The Nation* at the Haymarket, playing Hardy to Ian Holm's Nelson. "Imagine," he said to me when I first met him in Edinburgh in 1970, "me on a stage with Ian Holm. Not bad that." And then he cracked his pink watermelon smile, which lit up his face like a child with a new bicycle.

He never lost his innocent pleasure in being paid to do something which he regarded as an unexpected (and even undeserved) privilege. He always underrated himself as an actor: within his range he was invariably intelligent, unaffected, droll and broad, without losing his surprising natural delicacy. You could say Brian was larger than life or, more accurately, you could say life was smaller than Brian.

He was large, sometimes loud, and often boisterous, but everything he did was touched with grace. He was very well read. He collected antiques. He wrote well — TV plays, screen plays and journalism. He was always on the lookout for "the good earner", and he found it in his column for the Yorkshire Post, in the constantly touring production of *The Canterbury Tales*, and in becoming the voice of Tetley's Teabags playing the professional Yorkshireman, a stereotype which he recoiled from in life.

What remains of Brian is love, certainly, but also fun. No one could tell a better anecdote and no one could resist Brian, seismic with laughter, tears pouring down his pink cheeks, as he added yet another detail to yet another epic tale of comic folly. A few days ago, a mutual friend asked him if he had ever fought Jack Pye, a legendary Hull wrestler. "Oh yes," said Brian, "he got me in a clinch and, whispered 'mind me back'". And then he shook with laughter, as always like a giant jolly cherub.

If you had seen Brian in *The Mysteries* playing God, you would have been convinced that the Divine Being was an open-hearted Yorkshireman very like Brian Glover, but you would be forced to wonder why such an apparently benign Being could deprive us of the company of a man who enriched the lives of everyone he ever met.

Ken Loach writes: The success of *Kes* owes much to Brian Glover's performance as the PE teacher. Barry Hines, the writer, had suggested him for the part. At the time Brian was teaching English at a neighbouring school in Barnsley. It was his interplay with the boys that made it work so well. He had a great sense of fun but he played the part dead straight. His comedy was best when he played it straight.

IN those days, he probably liked to think of himself as a wrestler who taught in the day. There was an innocence about him; a simplicity in his work. It was very direct and there was no guile. After all, he had a teacher's technique, not an actor's.

While we were filming, he had been on holiday with his family in France, and he told us he had gone to one of those hole-in-the-ground rural toilets. In mid-performance, he had damaged his knee, couldn't stand up and had to be helped out. When he came back, he said he couldn't go on with the filming. But he did, hopping all over the football pitch, a bandage round his knee.

What was interesting was seeing him work with that group of boys, nearly 30 of them, in the film. He had such fun with them, but he controlled them too. It remains one of our best memories.

Gary Sinyor writes: From the moment *Leon the Pig Farmer* was first conceived, Brian was uppermost in my mind as the bullet-headed farmer. Within minutes of starting rehearsals he had us in stitches as we tried to work out how a pig farmer would go Jewish. How loud should the Oy! be. How raised should be the hands. "You can never be too subtle," he said to me.

But why did he agree to work on Leon — a film with no guaranteed payment with a budget smaller (so he told me) than his personal fee for *Aliens 3*? That is where he was subtle. Despite appearances, he was a gentle soul. A kindly man. Old-fashioned words maybe, but for an old-fashioned friend. He was always the man we had in mind to play Eric in *Stiff Upper Lips*. I sent him the script. "Bloody hysterical," he said. "Bloody Puttnam won't bloody like it though."

His last words to me were spoken after a screening of the film in Bradford. He was already ill but had the courage of a lion. "I'll bloody go to every bloody cinema within the M25 every bloody night, Gary. Don't you worry." It was sincerely said and followed by a typical Glover cackle. I'll bloody miss you.

Brian Glover, actor, writer, wrestler, born April 2, 1934; died July 24, 1997

Dr Trudie Berger

Speaking in tongues

TRUDIE Berger, who has died aged 87, will be remembered by generations of language students at York University, particularly by the postgraduates to whom she taught Italian to O-level standard in a matter of weeks.

Berger was a classroom teacher pure and simple, and during her time at the language teaching centre at York she refused all invitations to contribute to academic journals or write books, despite the obvious success of her language-teaching method. It was, however, her annual crash course in Italian for intending language teachers which brought her national publicity.

Students on the one-year Post-Graduate Certificate of Education course were required to learn the language from scratch as part of their training. They arrived at York two weeks before the beginning of the October term, and working in one huge class — Trudie always said the bigger the class the more she liked it — by November they were ready to take Italian O-level. Nobody ever failed the exam and most gained A grades.

Trudie's teaching method was instinctive, owing nothing to text books or theory. She furnished her classroom with artefacts and pictures from Italy. In this "cultural island" only Italian was spoken, frequently interrupted by roars of laughter. From the first day, written work was set to reinforce the learning, so that within a few days students were writing their tutor long letters in Italian, using phrases from the Italian stories, love songs and proverbs that she had introduced them to.

> Trudie Berger's teaching method was instinctive, owing nothing to text books or language theory

Many students went with Trudie to the Perugia summer school, where she taught each year and of which she became a leading light. They were thus well-equipped to introduce Italian in the schools in which they began to teach, often as a sixth-form option.

Trudie Berger was born in Austria but, because of her family's Jewish connections, she left the country at the age of 18. After eight years in Italy, where she took a degree and mastered Italian, she came to London. She had great difficulties getting a job, working first as a house-cleaner and later as a shop assistant until, after years of poverty, she was appointed to teach German at the girls' grammar school in Keighley, before moving to York. There her natural gift for communicating to others her single-minded enthusiasm for language learning was given free rein.

Such leisure as Trudie allowed herself was spent learning new languages. To her friends it seemed that she learned a new language every year. Though she never wrote about her methods of language teaching, they have not been entirely lost. They are being further developed by a former colleague at York, and her selfless disciple and faithful friend, Salvador Ortiz Carboneres, senior tutor at Warwick University.

Trudie was more than a charismatic language teacher. She was always accessible to students offering a shoulder to cry on, as well as wise lessons drawn from her own life. At York, too, she was happy to be received into the Roman Catholic Church. The large congregation at her requiem mass bore witness to the affection in which she was held by everyone who knew her.

Eric Hawkins

Trudie Berger, language teacher, born February 12, 1910; died July 4, 1997

Rear-Admiral Peter Gray

Guardian of the convoys

REAR-Admiral Peter Gray, who has died aged 85, served in destroyers in all European naval theatres of the second world war and played a prominent part in one of the conflict's most significant convoy battles.

He was appointed first lieutenant of the convoy escort HMS Stork shortly after war broke out, covering merchant shipping on the exposed east coast of England until diverted to the botched British intervention in Norway in spring 1940.

The sloop, working with the destroyer Wolverine, rescued a battalion of Irish Guards in 15 minutes as their troopship burned and sank under them with the loss of their commanders. The 700 soldiers, with all their kit, lined up as if on parade to await their salvation. Stork was the last Allied warship to leave Norwegian waters in June 1940 and Gray was awarded the DSC.

Stork went back to east-coast convoy duty until she was badly damaged in an air attack. After repairs she was transferred to Western Approaches Command, escorting ocean convoys in the North Atlantic in 1941. Gray became acting skipper that summer when his captain suffered a breakdown. A new one was appointed in September — Captain "Johnnie" Walker, the best escort leader of the war — who was now to command the 36th Escort Group as well as the Stork. At the end of the year the group was ordered to escort homeward-bound convoy HG 76, made up of 32 ships, from Gibraltar.

The group's normal strength of two sloops and six corvettes was boosted by a small aircraft-carrier plus three destroyers, two more sloops and three corvettes, the strongest escort assigned to any convoy thus far. The Germans assembled at least 10 U-boats and six Kondor long-range bombers. A 10-day battle ensued, the most intense struggle over a single convoy of the entire war.

The escorts sank two U-boats on December 17 in prolonged chases. The carrier's fighters fended the Kondors off, but two days later the destroyer Stanley was torpedoed and sunk by U 574. Walker depth-charged the submarine, forcing it to surface and the U-boat and Stork then circled each other, the sloop too close to be able sufficiently to depress her guns. The crew was reduced to swearing — apart from Lieutenant Gray, who manhandled a machine-gun on to the bridge, cleared the conning tower with a hail of shots and thus enabled Walker to haul off, and ram the submarine. Gray was mentioned in dispatches, one of five such awards he won.

HG 76 lost two merchantmen, one destroyer and the carrier but destroyed four U-boats — including that of a leading "ace" — and two Kondors, damaging a third. The Germans gave up when long-range RAF Liberator bombers appeared, their first intervention in the Battle of the Atlantic, in which they would eventually clinch victory.

Gordon Thomas Secombe Gray, who preferred to be known as Peter, was born into a Northamptonshire brewing family. As a midshipman he served in Mediterranean Fleet battleships. By 1936 he was a lieutenant on the cruiser Durban, serving off Palestine during the Arab Revolt. He won his first "mention" when he took a detachment of ratings with naval guns ashore to reinforce British troops. He served on a gunboat in the Yangtse in 1937 before returning home to earn his pilot's wings, a qualification he never used.

Gray . . . naval commander

Gray was to spend the rest of his seagoing career in destroyers and other small ships. He got his first command early in 1942, the new Hunt Class destroyer Badsworth, in which he saw service in the North Atlantic, the Arctic and the Mediterranean during the struggles for Malta and Sicily. He next commanded the destroyer Lamerton in Italian waters.

After the war, he skippered four destroyers and after an interlude as executive officer of Lord Mountbatten's Mediterranean flagship and as a staff officer, he took command of the fifth flotilla of four frigates in the rank of captain, serving at Suez during the 1956 action. He resigned when it became clear that he could not hope for another seagoing command. He and his wife, Sonia, whom he married in 1939, then took up sailing on Europe's inland waterways. He leaves a son and a daughter.

Dan van der Vat

Peter (Gordon Thomas Secombe) Gray, naval commander, born December 20, 1911; died June 12, 1997

Birthdays

Sally Beauman, writer, 53; **Clive Bradley**, chief executive, Publishers' Association, 63; **Louise Brown**, world's first test tube baby, 19; **James Butler**, sculptor, 66; **Nicole Farhi**, fashion designer, 51; **Lady Goodhart**, principal, Queen's College, London, 58; **Prof William Niblett**, educationist, 91; **Margaret Puxon**, barrister and gynaecologist, 82; **Prof Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn**, archaeologist, Master, Jesus College, Cambridge, 60; **Brian Robson**, military historian, 71; **Annie Ross**, singer, 67.

Death Notices

MANOUKIAN, Veronica, died suddenly at home on July 17th. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium at 1.30pm on Wednesday July 30th. Family flowers only please but donations may be made to one of her favourite charities UNICEF, Greenpeace or SHELTER. All enquiries to Co-operative Funeral Services, 152 King St, Hammersmith, London W6 0181 748 2982

SCHWARZ, Victor, died suddenly on 22nd July 1997. Beloved Husband of the late Mary, dearest Father of Elena and the late Isabel, treasured grandfather of Olivier and Raphael. Family flowers only, donation if desired, to SHELTER, National Campaign for the Homeless. All enquiries regarding the day and time of the funeral and all donations to, Co-operative Funeral Service, Manchester Road, Heaton Chapel, Stockport, SK4 5DH. tel. 0161-432-0818.

SCULL, Marjorie Therese, wife of the late Allan Scull, beloved mother of Andrew, Anne-Louise, Philip and Claire, grandmother, teacher and friend to many, died on July 20 1997.

WARBECK, David (Mitchell), aged 55 years died after a short illness on 23rd July 1997. Service to be held at Golders Green Crematorium on Thursday 31st July at 3.40pm followed by a party at the usual place from 5.00pm. Enquiries to J H Kenyon (0171-794-3535).

In Memoriam

HIGH, Sergeant George Henry (5th East Yorkshire Regiment). Killed in the First Battle of Alamein on July 25 1942. Always remembered

☎To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4129 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri

Jackdaw

Whistlestop tour

WE are assured Spanish fishermen called Pedro do it — "always". In America, dwarves do it — in mines. In England, workmen do it. It was hearing a Spaniard in Spain doing it the other week that made me notice that the lower classes here are not whistling any longer (I hadn't noticed till then.)

I don't mean wolf-whistling, which recent press reports say the Building Trades Association is about to ban because of sexual harassment. I mean tune whistling. So it might have been going on, or rather not going on, a long time. But there's no doubt of it. Since I noticed, I've checked the places where it used to happen, and it isn't happening. You can hang about under a ladder with a chap up it painting a window, peer under a car where another chap is lying on his back on one of those trolley things, follow the postman, or even venture into an allotment, and you won't catch a note, not so much as a canary's bleep, not a single siffle.

Whistling is an odd thing in terms of class. It is not, for instance, like spitting. Middle-class people strongly disapprove of spitting whoever is doing it, and that includes foreigners, even when they accept it among themselves and in their own country. In these terms, whistling is at the opposite end of the spectrum. Middle-class people do not whistle, at least in public. It is not for them.

But they are perfectly happy for workmen to do it. Indeed, they have come to expect it of them. It gives us, perhaps quite wrongly, the impression that "they" are happy going about their jobs. It plays to a feeling, again possibly quite incorrect, that their working-class life is rather carefree and easy-going compared to the worries of the middle-class office, something to whistle about. *The workers are no longer whistling while they work, according to the Spectator.*

Glad in the lab

WE no longer regard scientists as worthy but boring people who do tedious, repetitive work in laboratories, or dull, bearded creatures in anoraks, chipping away at dull rocks. We no longer presume to think that science is uncreative, or somehow less significant, in the end, than the work of non-scientists, who devote themselves to really important questions like adultery and the meaning of life. But there is still a great divide between science and the humanities, or at least between those who write about them.

The great difference between the two cultures is that science and science writing, are full of optimism, whereas the humanities are essentially tragic. Even the most pedestrian scientific magazine is full of excitement about the future; science is about constant development, inventiveness, hope and possibility of great things ahead. It is full of the joy of discovery, the energy of intellectual effort, and a sense of common purpose among scientists all over the world. The humanities, by contrast — the contemporary novel, for example — are pessimistic, self-doubting and negative, as if, to borrow a phrase, there was nothing left remarkable beneath the visiting moon. *Life, the universe and science in Literary Review.*

Hot pot

ONE of the more interesting cultural phenomena in Washington DC these days is the success of a shiny new Californian-based eatery called Wrap-Works. More than six months after the restaurant's opening, queues of customers, the faithful and the curious, spill outside its tall glass doors every noon-day. The food is fast and neat and intriguing in its eclecticism: Japanese soba noodles, Kung Pao chicken, blackened catfish mixed with mango salsa, all rolled into technicolour tortillas. The cheerful and many-hued baristas insist that you not call these snacks burritos.

"Wraps" is the preferred term, the proper de-ethnicised label for such resolutely multi-ethnic fare. As patrons order their Tahi peanut chicken and Chinese salad wraps, they often marvel at the food. They should: this is more than a triumph of good cheap eats. It's a truimph of the melting pot, an edible shrine to post-cultural structuralism, the new soul food for a happy polyglot society. *A way to a country's heart is through its stomach, says New Republic.*

Moor is less

GROUSE moors should stretch as far as the eye can see . . . — or so popular perception would have us believe. But now a band of converts are advocating that small is beautiful. If stubble or pasture is visible nearby, it is no longer something at which to sniff.

Even the experts admit that diminutive moors have much to recommend them. Such is the demand for the sport of shooting grouse that there is a growing queue wishing to buy a moor . . . Perhaps one of the real benefits of a small moor, insuring continuity of skill and interest, is the introduction of small shots. A large double-gun shoot is intimidating for a beginner — the younger someone starts, the better he or she are likely to be. The etiquette, which centres round safety, can be gently taught during a season of walking up with the beaters. A callow shot will be overawed by the sight of 50 grouse flying straight at him. He is much more likely to succeed if there are only one or two birds at which to shoot.

Big grouse . . . Country Life

Once the young gun has developed into an experienced shot, he will be invited to days on a grouse moor, or to pheasant and partridge shoots. He would not expect to shoot both on the same day unless he had a moor that was small enough to access quickly for just one drive. *Is small beautiful, wonders Country Life.*

Time bomb

MANY years ago, an engineer explained to me the difference between human and computer behaviour. "If you give £1 to young John and ask him to go and buy a loaf of bread, he will go to the shop, buy the loaf of bread and bring back the change. If you could ask a computer the same thing, it would go to the shop, buy the loaf and wait there." Sadly, artificial intelligence has not progressed a great deal since then. It is true that many software programmes can now draw inferences from context and act accordingly; but when there is no context, we should not be surprised if the system cannot cope. And it is this lack of context — in this case, the failure to inform computers of a basic assumption about the date — that lies behind what is known as the year 2,000 problem, or the Millennium bomb. *Prospect on the faults of both man and machine.*

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk.; fax 0171-713 4366; write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Hannah Pool

Watchdog leans on BT to ring the home bells

Simon Beavis
Industrial Editor

BRITISH Telecom's regulator yesterday clamped new restrictions on the privatised company to ensure the interests of UK consumers are not swept aside as it pursues its ambitious expansion plans overseas.

The move comes amid continuing deep concern in the City that BT's planned £12 billion merger with MCI, America's second biggest long-distance operator, could land the group with expensive liabilities or even collapse.

Those feelings now appear to be partly shared by the telecoms watchdog, Oftel.

Two weeks ago, the merger was rocked when MCI revealed that its losses from trying to break into the local US phone market could double this year to $800 million and rise even higher in 1998.

Don Cruickshank, the director general of Oftel, stressed that the global expansion of BT was "natural" and "welcome".

But he said he needed to be sure that the privatised company did not shirk its domestic obligations.

As part of a new licence condition, he will insist that BT directors provide evidence each year that they have not compromised BT's ability to serve the UK market.

They will be forced to provide him with a certificate stating they have done nothing to jeopardise the provision and financing of telecom services at home.

The regulator will also have the power to insist on an auditors report from BT proving it has the necessary systems in place for the certificate to be produced.

The news greeted BT as it was unveiling an important new partner to its Italian joint venture, Albacom, which is bidding to take up to 15 per cent of the Italian market by 2007 and be the main challenger to state-owned Telecom Italia.

State oil group ENI will take a 35 per cent stake to join the partnership, which already involves BT and the Banco Nazionale del Lavoro, sharing a 45.5 per cent stake, and Mediaset with 19.5 per cent.

BT said it was disappointed at the regulator's decision, saying the market and competition would ensure that it maintained a powerful presence in the UK, the main source of its profits.

A spokeswoman said the company is investing £3 billion a year in the UK and had put £32 billion of investment into its home market since privatisation in 1984.

The regulator had considered taking an even tougher line with the rapidly expanding BT, which has joint ventures in 15 countries, distribution deals in a further 27 and has set its sights on becoming one of the top three telecoms companies in the world with its MCI deal.

One option had been to put a duty on BT to secure adequate resourcing of the UK business, but Mr Cruickshank rejected this as being excessively intrusive.

GRAPHIC: GRAPHIC NEWS

Blunder means dating service's number is up

Dan Atkinson

TELEPHONE watchdogs have shut an "adult dating" service that handed out a woman's number, causing her to be pestered by men she did not know. The Manchester woman, who had never had any contact with the service, received "a number of telephone calls", the regulator of premier lines, Icstis, said.

Dates UK Ltd of Salford has been barred from operating until it can meet Icstis rules. As well as giving out the woman's number, the service failed to meet Icstis's technical standards, the regulator said.

An Icstis spokesman said the watchdog had been unable to find out why her the woman's number was given to callers, a spokesman said.

It was unsure whether the service had been picking numbers out of the air, or whether the woman's number had been confused with someone else's. Whatever the reason, giving out numbers through a dating service is against Icstis rules.

Other cases in the regulator's July report included:

- An £800 fine for the operator of a number advertised in Yellow Pages as a central call point for people who wanted to find their nearest emergency doctor or dentist. Callers were directed to premium-rate numbers and were eventually advised to ring a mobile number, which was switched off. "At no point were callers given information on emergency medical or dental treatment."
- A £5,000 fine for the providers of a service faxing information on repossessed properties. Icstis said the description was misleading, because not all the properties were repossessed and some "were being marketed by other estate agents who had not given ... permission to advertise them". The same service previously had been found to have given out incorrect information.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.22	France 10.04	Italy 2,922	Singapore 2.41
Austria 20.98	Germany 2.9800	Malta 0.6435	South Africa 7.48
Belgium 61.73	Greece 466.00	Netherlands 3.3480	Spain 249.70
Canada 2.26	Hong Kong 12.63	New Zealand 2.49	Sweden 12.85
Cyprus 0.87	India 60.00	Norway 12.26	Switzerland 2.42
Denmark 11.42	Ireland 1.1025	Portugal 301.40	Turkey 254,310
Finland 8.85	Israel 5.90	Saudi Arabia 6.18	USA 1.6120

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Horton shunted into action

A sceptical Jimmy Knapp, right, looks on yesterday as Sir Robert Horton tries to improve Railtrack's image at the annual shareholders' meeting PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Railtrack vows to speed up crash compensation

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

RAILTRACK'S chairman, Sir Robert Horton, yesterday promised that the company would speed up moves to deal with compensation claims from railway accident victims.

The pledge followed protests at the company's annual shareholders' meeting and intervention by transport minister Glenda Jackson over Railtrack's treatment of victims of three rail accidents at Bexley, Stafford and Watford over the past 18 months.

The accidents led to the loss of three lives and almost 100 injuries. But the cumbersome compensation system, in an industry fragmented by privatisation, has produced lengthy delays while lawyers decide who should accept the blame.

Sir Robert, who faced criticism from several shareholders at the meeting in London, said he had received a letter from Ms Jackson about the Stafford train crash caused by a faulty axle 16 months ago. Residents at the scene of the accident are still trying to obtain damages.

Stafford's Labour MP, David Kidney, explained that the residents had modest claims for compensation, but nobody had so far accepted liability and no money had been paid.

"Railtrack made all sorts of reassuring promises at the time of the crash, but since then had not given a jot of help," Mr Kidney said.

Sir Robert said be would be bringing together all interested parties in an attempt to resolve the issues.

The chairman also apologised to businesses affected by the Bexley accident in February, when a freight train fell off a viaduct, and thanked them for their co-operation.

John Messenger, who owns one of the businesses, said: "It was a miracle no one was killed. My business is one of many to be out of pocket by thousands of pounds."

The meeting was told that before the industry was privatised, British Rail always accepted responsibility for an accident as soon as it occurred.

Jimmy Knapp, leader of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, said that fragmentation had given individual companies the opportunity to avoid their responsibilities to victims. The break up of the industry allowed companies to procrastinate, Mr Knapp said as he urged the Government to review the manner in which payments were made.

David Collins, a solicitor representing 35 victims from the Watford crash, argued for a tightening of legislation. "Those who were injured feel that they have been shabbily treated by a privatised industry more interested in passing the buck than its own responsibilities over safety," Mr Collins said.

I'll be back, warns covetous butler

Lina Saigol amid the members at Nationwide's annual stocktaking

MICHAEL Hardern, undeterred by his failure to win a seat on the Nationwide board, yesterday promised to try harder in next year's elections at Britain's largest building society.

The freelance butler said he would expand his campaign to get mutually owned organisations to convert to banking status, generating big payoffs to their present owners when the societies became quoted companies.

He said that he plans to pursue the Britannia and Bradford & Bingley societies for windfall conversion payouts next.

Speaking after the Nationwide annual shareholders' meeting at a London hotel, Mr Hardern blamed press coverage for his defeat in Wednesday's poll, when he attracted the lowest number of votes and his fellow carpetbaggers were spurned by a three-to-one majority of savers backing the official candidates in favour of continued mutual ownership of the society.

Although Mr Hardern had said he would address the meeting, the freelance butler walked out halfway through, citing boredom. He now intends to spend August sailing round the Scilly isles.

He said: "I plan on hiring a few pirates in Penzance, making a conquest there, and then return, with more refined arguments, to tackle the Nationwide again."

Several Nationwide members voiced their appreciation of the outcome of the vote which overwhelmingly favoured continued mutual ownership, allowing the society to continue its claims that it offers its customers better interest rates on savings and mortgages.

One member, Reg Williams, urged other members to remember the history of the Nationwide society, once part of the Co-operative movement.

Mr Williams said: "I only hope the Building Societies Association will bring in a law which prevents carpetbaggers from wasting the society's time in fighting for conversion."

Charles Nunneley, the Nationwide chairman, said that efforts would be made to stop members who joined it from "coming into the front room and dashing away with the family silver".

Nevertheless, he warned: "We can't ask people coming into our branches if their money is red-hot and if they are carpetbaggers."

Lord Taylor of Blackburn, a Labour peer and Nationwide member who was attending the society's meeting, said he had tabled a question in the Lords next Thursday about methods of preventing similar carpetbagging raids.

Chief executive Brian Davis repeatedly stressed throughout the meeting that although the Nationwide had received a number of merger offers from "friendly vultures" in the weeks running up to the vote, it had no intention of converting and would remain a mutual building society owned by its investing and borrowing members.

News in brief

Cookson reshuffle may cost £2m

THE joint managing director of Cookson, the group whose products range from flower pots to computer parts, is to leave the firm with a pay-off likely to be almost £2 million.

Don Carcieri's departure comes as part of a boardroom reshuffle at the conglomerate, which also sees the retirement of chairman Robert Malpas. His place will be taken by the current chief executive, Richard Oster. Mr Carcieri's fellow joint managing director, Steve Howard, will become chief executive.

The management shake-up was announced as Cookson reported better-than-expected first-half profits of £85.4 million, up from £69.2 million a year ago.

Mr Carcieri, a US citizen, earned £940,000 last year and had a two-year contract. He headed Cookson's electronics division, which provides parts for computer and mobile phone manufacturers, and will leave the company on December 31. — *Julia Finch*

Strike threat at Barclays

BARCLAYS Bank is facing the threat of a two-day strike by some of its workers in a pay dispute. Leaders of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) will decide over the next few days whether to sanction a walkout following a 53 per cent vote for action among the union's 7,000 members in the bank.

Meanwhile, leaders of another union, UNIFI, will try to resume talks with the bank after its 30,000 members at Barclays narrowly voted against a strike but by two to one backed other forms of industrial action. The unions complain that a new performance-linked pay deal will freeze the salaries of 25,000 Barclays workers. — *PA*

Longbridge gets new Mini

THE new Mini is to be built at Rover's Longbridge plant, it was confirmed yesterday. The decision helps safeguard the 15,000 jobs at the Birmingham site where the current Mini is made.

Rover Group chairman Walter Hasselkus said: "There is no doubt that the acceptance [on Wednesday] by associates of the recently negotiated three-year pay deal, together with progress made with trades unions on changes to working practices, were significant factors influencing the decision."

Production of the new Mini is not expected to start until the end of the decade. The company intend to turn out about 100,000 new Minis a year.

At the height of the car's fame, as many as 350,000 Minis were being produced a year. Annual production is now down to about 20,000 and total sales have passed the five million mark. — PA

Wembley scores £15m own-goal

Julia Finch

THE financial turnaround at Wembley stadium was dealt a blow yesterday as it emerged that the company faces a bill of more than £15 million for an American legal dispute.

The case, which involves a former US subsidiary of Wembley, has resulted in a damages award of $22.75 million (£13.6 million) and legal costs of £2 million to date. Wembley cannot appeal against the award as it was reached by arbitration, but a spokesman said the firm hoped to negotiate a reduced settlement.

The full damages and costs are only slightly less than the £17.1 million profit the company achieved last year — when it was able to pay its first dividend for four years — and are almost two thirds of the £25 million profits analysts expect for this year.

Wembley had appeared to be back on financial track after requiring a £120 million restructuring to restore stability two years ago. The news comes only two weeks after the group revealed that its plans to rebuild Wembley as Britain's new national stadium — with the aid of £100 million lottery money — had fallen drastically behind schedule. The delay is such that Wembley's hopes of hosting the lucrative World Athletics Championships in four years' time have been dashed.

Finance director Nigel Potter yesterday said there was no provision in the 1996 accounts for the award because of uncertainty about the case. Only a £1.25 million provision was made, to cover Wembley's legal costs. That has now been exceeded.

The case centred on a dispute between the PCC ticketing agency once owned by Wembley and Moviefone, a rival New York-based agency. The two firms struck a co-operation deal in 1992, but in 1994 Wembley sold PCC to yet another agency — Ticketmaster. Mr Potter said Ticketmaster had "frustrated the operations" of Moviefone.

Moviefone took legal action for damages and lost profits against PCC.

Nuclear power on brink

Waste watchdog fears for Sellafield jobs and industry's future, writes **Paul Brown**

GOVERNMENT indecision over the treatment of nuclear waste is jeopardising the future of the nuclear power industry and thousands of jobs at the Sellafield reprocessing works in Cumbria, the official watchdog on radioactive waste warned yesterday.

The Radioactive Waste Advisory Committee said nuclear policy had been thrown into question by the Tory decision before the election to halt plans for an underground dump at Sellafield.

The watchdog threw the future of Nirex into further doubt by saying the industry's waste company was the wrong organisation to solve the problem of highly toxic atomic waste. It urged the Government to start again from scratch, asking if ministers still favoured deep disposal.

In a potential blow to British Nuclear Fuels, the committee said spent nuclear fuel could in future be classified as waste, rather than as part of a recycling process. This would threaten imports of spent fuel to the controversial Thorp reprocessing plant.

A new formula for defining waste includes the test of whether imported spent fuel, once reprocessed, will be reused. If there is no use for the recycled plutonium and uranium, the committee suggests that it should be classified as waste — which it would be illegal to import under existing rules.

Andrew Blowers, a committee member and Professor of Social Sciences at the Open University, said that "with a stroke of the pen" the Government could change the face of the industry. The committee was concerned that the UK could become the world's depository for nuclear waste by default. A strict timetable for the return of waste must be adopted and adhered to.

Sir Gordon Beveridge, the chairman and vice-chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast, said it was not for the committee to say Nirex should be disbanded, but for its shareholders and the Department of Trade and Industry. Scientific data collected by Nirex should be preserved for use by its successor.

'Pirate' Hardern blames press, page 15

Tomorrow: Dynasty – woe for family empires

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

CBI issues export warning

Charlotte Denny

THE Bank of England was faced with one of its most acute policy dilemmas of the decade yesterday when consumer confidence took another leap while exporters indicated they were more despondent about prospects now than at any time since the 1980/81 recession under Margaret Thatcher.

With the pound continuing to rise against other leading currencies, manufacturers served notice on the Government that jobs and production would suffer if the Bank raises interest rates next month, as expected, to stifle consumer spending.

As the chemicals group ICI warned that the strong pound had cost it £90 million in the first half of the year, industry leaders said another interest rate hike would push up the pound further, causing more damage to the export sector.

The decline in export orders has yet to show up in the monthly trade data, which yesterday recorded the smallest deficit for over two years. But analysts warned that the gap would widen in the second half of the year when orders fed through into output. The Bank will consider interest rates next on August 8.

Unveiling its quarterly survey of the state of manufacturing, the Confederation of British Industry said the June Budget should have been used to slow down consumer spending.

The CBI made it clear another rise in base rates from the current level of 6.75 per cent would be "most unwelcome" to exporters. Chief economist Kate Barker said: "The Bank must look beyond the consumer boom to the outlook facing manufacturing."

Andrew Buxton, chair of the CBI's economic affairs committee, said: "The survey results clearly show a sharp dichotomy in the economy, with domestic demand continuing to grow, while export orders and confidence in the longer-term prospects are clearly being hit by the strength of sterling."

Manufacturers' export orders over the past four months fell at the fastest rate since October 1991 while domestic orders rose at the fastest rate since April 1995, according to the CBI.

Firms expect overall demand to grow more strongly over the next four months due to rising domestic orders, while exports are expected to continue falling.

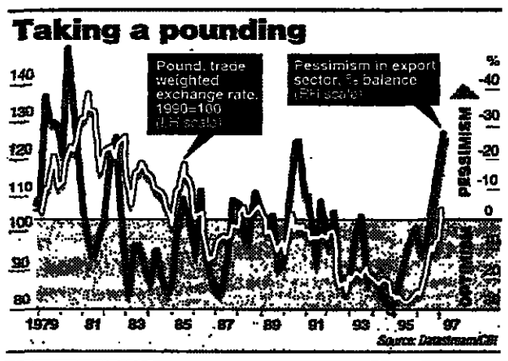
Despite the strength of the pound, Britain's trade performance improved in May. The trade gap with the rest of the world narrowed to £500 million, according to data released yesterday by the Office for National Statistics.

Imports fell 5.5 per cent from April's record levels to £14.6 billion while exports, fell by 2.5 per cent to £14.1 billion in May.

David Walton, of Goldman Sachs, said the trade figures were "excellent" but were unlikely to last once the lower orders fed through into output.

The impact of the pound on the export sector was highlighted by yesterday's results from ICI which showed pretax profits of £160 million for the first half of the year, more than £200 million down on the same period last year. ICI estimates sterling's rise will have cost it £150 million by the end of 1997.

Taking a pounding



How to avoid currency squeeze

1) **Hedging:** Selling future foreign currency income before it has been earned. Companies that took out a currency hedge at prevailing exchange rates a year ago, for example, can sell earnings in German marks at 2.30 to the pound, rather than today's 3.06. That represents a saving of almost £9 million on every DM100 million.

Rating: very effective in the short run but less effective and more expensive the longer the strength of sterling persists as those who provide the other end of the transaction catch on.

2) **Making workers redundant.** Offers long-term savings in exchange for short-term costs.

Rating: Superficially attractive, which is why a lot of companies do it. But carries risk. Companies lose workers they may need when sterling falls and demand picks up. Can also damage a company's reputation as an employer.

3) **Squeezing suppliers.** Big manufacturing companies may emerge from the latest surge in sterling buying less from fewer domestic companies and more dependent on overseas suppliers.

Rating: Similar risk to cutting staff. Valuable suppliers may have disappeared when demand picks up, while imported components will look less price-competitive.

4) **Taking it on the chin.** Companies can cut local-currency selling prices in order to maintain their market shares or they can maintain prices but see volumes fall.

Rating: A tricky decision. Cutting margins can be a short cut to selling at a loss. Maintaining prices carries the risk of losing customers who may never come back.

5) **Cutting and running.** Selling the business.

Rating: Drastic and potentially problematical. Needs a buyer prepared to offer at least a reasonable exit price and a sensible alternative in which to invest any proceeds.

SIB toughens rogue trader policing rules

Dan Atkinson

CITY executives would be made personally responsible for preventing Barings-style rogue trading under a blueprint published yesterday by the Securities and Investments Board, the chief regulator.

Banks and broking houses would have to draw up a risk-management plan identifying managers responsible for specific activities.

The SIB also ordered member firms to ensure that bonus arrangements "cannot corrupt the integrity of the firm or any of its systems and controls".

The regulator is responding to fears of "moral hazard" — "star" traders seeking to safeguard their bonuses by making wild gambles with their firms' money.

Board sources said firms would not have to file their risk-management plans with the SIB but the regulator would demand instant access to the documents if something went wrong.

Sir Andrew Large, outgoing SIB chairman, said: "We believe that the ability to hold senior management to account personally where internal controls are flawed and investors' assets are put at risk will help raise standards."

The SIB said firms would be required to compile and keep up to date a statement on their management structure. The regulator would have the right to see it at all times, and it would have to show why firms believed their risk controls were effective.

The SIB's new strategy also includes an 11-point guidance list for management. One point on the list is that senior managers should be aware of the level of risk to which the firm is prepared to be exposed.

In addition: "[A firm] should ensure that each of its senior managers is made clearly aware of, and expressly accepts, the nature and extent of the responsibilities expected of him".

On pay and bonuses, the list says a firm "should design, build and use its operating arrangements (including remuneration and bonus or other incentive systems) with a view to ensuring that they cannot corrupt the integrity of the firm, or any of its systems and controls."

Pop star goes it alone on the Net

Mark Tran in New York

THE Artist Formerly Known As Prince, a risk-taker in his art and personal life, is about to take a leap into the unknown by selling his music over the Internet without the support of a record company or distributor.

If he pulls it off, the move could have wide-ranging implications for the record industry as other big-name musicians could dump their record labels and sell directly to the consumer via PCs.

This would spell further trouble for record companies like Warner Music, already hit by a slump in music sales.

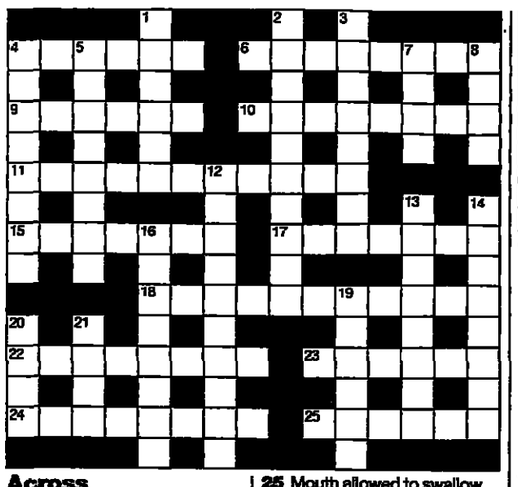
The switch to the Net has been pioneered by Todd Rundgren, the Cure and Tragically Hip.

Jupiter Communications, an Internet research firm, predicts that by 2002 online sales will be worth $1.6 billion (£1 illion). "The artist is the brand, not the record label," said Mark Mooradian, a Jupiter analyst, who thinks that online marketing and distribution will actually be "a shot in the arm for an industry whose growth is slowing."

The Artist Formerly Known as Prince in concert PHOTOGRAPH: ROBIN MAYES

Guardian Crossword No 21,025

Set by Fidelio



Across

4 Henry a right bachelor, alternatively Pearl's follower (6)
6 This cleans a spectator (8)
9 City mark of the sailor (6)
10 Lake west of Cape Wednesday, perhaps, is material (8)
11 Negro made international as judge sometimes (11)
15 Many found in attractive skirt (7)
17 Take up telepathy Middleton and benefit! (7)
18 Al Capone played on this? (6-5)
22 Court argument certain to produce enjoyment (8)
23 Maybe Siamese gets half conscience reminder (6)
24 He keeps servant (8)
25 Mouth allowed to swallow this glass (6)

Down

1 Indian doctor and warmonger (6)
2 Reportedly change article seen in holy place (10)
3 Like Robinson, did the dishes (6,2)
4 Moiety returned for this player (8)
5 Villainous artists name unknown (8)
7 It is paid by the auditors (4)
8 Hear foreign Titaness (4)
12 Final word heard here? (4,6)
13 North American mutual thrown out during harvest time (8)
14 Knowing feeling is unmarried (8)
16 It gives roasting to acts above the cheap seats (8)
19 Tex is demure outwardly with body odour inside (6)
20 Learnington's run for boxing (4)
21 The French index is not right (4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,024

CLASSIC REFUTAL
O S H O A R R I
EXPLAIN IRELAND
R I K S S E D L
CARTOUCHE MOUSE
E I I A C S
DINGO OLEASTERS
V U N O
REPRESSED NICER
A R R E H O
CHESS APARTMENT
K S T P V O R A
EYEBATH OUTPOST
T N T I U A O O
SITTERS RELATER

Solution tomorrow

☎ Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 338 238. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by ATS

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

ABFPRT

Arnault risks £280m

Opponent of drinks merger puts money where his mouth is. **Ian King reports**

BERNARD Arnault, chairman of Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessey, indicated yesterday he would rather face losses of almost £300 million than see Guinness and Grand Metropolitan's record £24 billion merger go ahead.

Launching his long-awaited City charm offensive, Mr Arnault — whose group is Guinness and GrandMet's biggest single shareholder — said he would block any attempt to proceed with the deal.

Assuming Guinness and GrandMet shares would lose the 20 per cent gains made when the merger was announced, LVMH would suffer losses of at least £280 million.

Guinness and GrandMet accused Mr Arnault of resorting to desperate tactics to force his way into the deal.

Mr Arnault said that even though LVMH owned only 11.06 per cent of GrandMet — against the 25 per cent needed to block the merger — he had the support of enough GrandMet shareholders to win.

Asked if he would block the deal even at a cost to LVMH's GrandMet stake, Mr Arnault said: "I am never happy to see the price of shares going down, but we are prepared to do what is required."

However, Mr Arnault said he was prepared to compromise on his plan for a three-way merger of LVMH's drinks arm, Moët Hennessey, with those of Guinness and GrandMet.

He would back an immediate merger of Moët Hennessey with Guinness and GrandMet if the pair guaranteed to demerge Burger King, Guinness Brewing and Pillsbury from the combine eventually.

Mr Arnault also said he was prepared to compromise on his original demand for LVMH to have a 35 per cent stake in the £15 billion drinks group created by such a deal.

Notebook

Sir Colin leads from the front

Edited by Alex Brummer

SHAREHOLDERS in engineering group Siebe have good reason to be cheered. After the departure from the chair of Barrie Stephens, arguably one of Britain's most creative industrialists of the last two decades, they are to get Sir Colin Marshall as a replacement from January 1, 1998.

Or should they be? Sir Colin is not without other interests. He remains at the helm of British Airways, although it has not been noticeable during the recent industrial dispute when chief executive Robert Ayling has made the public running.

If being chairman of Britain's premier airline were not enough, he is also deputy-chairman of one of the UK's top three companies, British Telecom, which is currently engaged in putting together the largest merger in Anglo-American corporate history.

Indeed, according to BT, Sir Colin was one of three directors, along with Sir Peter Bonfield and Keith Oates, representing BT at talks with would-be partner MCI in Washington DC on July 9, when they were told of MCI's expensive difficulties in launching into local phone markets.

The trio then flew back to London for a meeting of the BT board on July 10 — perhaps the most critical meeting in the company's history — the very same day that flight crew unions were taking industrial action at BA.

This might seem enough responsibility for any top industrialist: handling a major industrial dispute and merger crisis But not Sir Colin. He is also non-executive chairman of Inchcape, the struggling international trader.

But for a superman of Sir Colin's stature this is nothing: there is also his position as director of HSBC — definitively the UK's largest company — currently engaged in a high-risk acquisition programme in Latin America — just as investors are showing signs of nervousness about emerging markets. After this lot, not to mention his job as CBI president, running Siebe with a turnover of a mere £2.6 billion and some complex technologies, will be a mere bagatelle.

Pinning the blame

IT IS always mightily convenient for the City firm if the mistakes can be pinned on one person, rather than the institution itself or its managers. This is the rusty chain that connects Nick Leeson at Barings with Peter Young at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and Kyriacos Papouis at NatWest Markets.

Stage left enter the Securities and Investments Board, with a big new unbureaucratic idea. In its view, senior managers must take responsibility for what is going on below them. It sounds obvious really, except at Barings and in the pensions mis-selling cases lines of responsibility proved so blurred it was almost impossible to determine where they led to.

Under the new SIB proposal, managers will be required to assign a risk rating to each activity carried out by a regulated firm and to have a designated manager whose duty it will be to ensure that the risk levels are not exceeded. If a bank decides to enter a new form of trading, like trading in interest rate swaps, then there will need to be a manager who has assessed the risks and assigned responsibility.

This will be largely an internal matter for the firms concerned: the SIB has no intention of asking banks or securities houses to supply this information to the regulators automatically.

What they are asking is that there are clear lines of control and an understanding of risk in each of the company's businesses, of which management at the highest levels is fully aware. Where something goes wrong, the documents containing this data will be among the first inspected by the regulators as they seek to establish responsibility.

All of this seems an eminently sensible, low-cost way of proceeding. If there is a scandal, however, it is that some of the best-paid executives in Britain have in the past shown a cavalier approach to risk management and control, damaging the interests of all stakeholders.

French polish

AEROSPACE executives in Europe must be nearing despair with the new French government. One minute the Jospin administration is acknowledging the need for a restructuring of the aerospace and defence industry within a European context. The next, it appears determined to obstruct any such moves.

The best gloss that can be put on defence minister Alain Richard's claim that he would like to keep Aerospatiale in the public sector is that it will allow the company to concentrate, with its partners in the project, on converting Airbus into a conventional corporate structure.

But what kind of progress? The other Airbus partners, principally British Aerospace and Daimler-Benz Aerospace, are now looking at what should be a conventional corporate structure but one in which the French state owns more than a third of the shares.

It is all very well to believe such a structure would work if the managers are allowed to manage. France, however, is hardly going to stand idly by if such management means factory closures and job losses. Airbus is in danger of swapping one increasingly inadequate structure for another.

Moscow dumps top London bankers

Ian King

MOSCOW Narodny Bank, the London operation controlled by Russia's central bank, has replaced its two top executives following an investigation into its activities by the Bank of England.

Moscow Narodny's former chairman, Yuri Poletaev, and its former chief executive, Alexander Semikoz, relinquished their posts on Tuesday, although both remain directors for the time being.

The changes were demanded by the Russian central bank, which owns 89 per cent of MNB, and which is thought to have been embarrassed by the Bank of England inquiry.

Mr Semikoz has been replaced by Igor Souvorov, previously general manager of MNB's Singapore branch, with a brief to introduce tighter financial controls.

Moscow Narodny's general manager, Derek Farmer — whose position is also thought to have been reviewed by the central bank — remains in place. The changes come after an intensive review, which itself followed a Bank of England inquiry into MNB's trade finance department, as the Guardian disclosed last month.

The Bank, which was alerted by MNB, sent a team of nine — backed by external accountants — to look into transactions by the department, including one in which MNB allegedly lost £10 million backing a US company trading in frozen chickens.

At the time of the inquiry, one member of staff in the department was suspended on full pay, and last night MNB said he remained suspended.

Announcing the changes, MNB said the decisions to remove Mr Semikoz and Mr Poletaev had been made on the recommendation of the Russian central bank, adding that the British banking authorities had been informed.

It said: "The review of MNB's management has been undertaken to enhance the Bank's activities, to more closely define its development strategy and to strengthen internal controls."

هكذا من الأصل